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Armenia Accepts Principles of Economic Integration

AU1908194593 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 17 Aug 93 p 1

[Statement by the Press Service of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers and by UKRINFORM: "Armenia's Decision"]

[Text] Ukraine's Prime Minister L. Kuchma received a letter from Prime Minister of the Armenian Republic G. Bagratyan in which it is stated that, having thoroughly studied the Statement by the Governments of the Belarusian Republic, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine on Urgent Measures for Intensifying the Economic Integration, the Armenian Government confirms its acceptance of its main principles. We believe, reads the letter, that the maintenance of a single economic area conforms to the interests of Armenia whose government expresses its readiness to take part in the preparation of corresponding documents.

Composition of CIS Human Rights Commission Determined

LD1908151193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] A meeting of experts has ended at the CIS headquarters in Minsk where the question of setting up a commission on human rights in the Commonwealth countries was discussed. The composition of the commission has been determined: Representatives of each side will be appointed by their governments to work there on a permanent basis. The statute on the commission for human rights will probably be submitted for approval at the forthcoming meeting of the Commonwealth heads of state. Ratification by the parliaments is not being envisaged. Representatives of Tajikistan were not present at the meeting. Representatives of Ukraine and Moldova attended only as observers.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 20 Aug

LD2008053993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0524 GMT 20 Aug 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 20 ITAR-TASS—President Yeltsin's speech at a press conference, held on the occasion of the second anniversary of the victory of democratic forces over the putschists in August 1991, is in the focus of attention of today's newspapers.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an article on that subject under the headline "I Intend To Set Things in Order in Russia in All Spheres"—Yeltsin's words at the press conference.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA calls attention to the part in President Yeltsin's speech, in which he said: "I shall insist on new elections to the parliament (Supreme Soviet). A new Russia cannot have a parliament like that."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA also publishes an article about the press conference and about a demonstration, held by the Labour Moscow movement in protest against the existing regime. The article is entitled "Celebrations in Moscow: President Yeltsin Sets Forth his Plan of Overcoming Dual Power in the Country, While the Opposition Accuses Executive Authorities of Provocative Intentions." The newspaper uses as the lead the president's words that on August 19- 21, 1991, "it was being decided whether or not Russia will go on with transformations and will be a democratic country." NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA attributes the disappointment of demostrators to the fact that the Moscow authorities shortened considerable the route of the demonstration.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes one more article about the anniversary, which says that "Boris Yeltsin is now a positive factor both in economy and policy. He is backed by the people who are ready to exercise authority as a real, practical thing. He is supported by a team of intellectuals."

Commenting on President Yeltsin's speech, PRAVDA writes ironically in the headline to its article that "President Yeltsin spoke at the anniversary press conference as though he were standing on a tank turret once again."

PRAVDA carries an article by Yuriy Vlasov, which says that the people are beginning to realise at last that now the rivalry is not between the executive and legislative branches of authority, not between the government and the parliament, not between Yeltsin and Khasbulatov. "We are witnessing a strong and cruel clash between two worlds, two ideas, a desperate struggle for the preservation of the Russian state ... "

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes an exclusive interview with Mikhail Poltoranin, head of the Russian Federal Information Centre. He criticised the mass media, specifically that newspaper, and said that, in his opinion, the press today "should unambiguously side with Russia, and it alone. All those who promote the interests of Russia are her friends, and those who are furthering selfish aims are her enemies." In the interview Poltoranin denounced the activities of the parliament.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA and some other newspapers publish articles dealing with a tape-recorded conversation between prosecutor-general of the Russian Federation Valentin Stepankov and Dmitriy Yakubovskiy, who is not unknown in this country. According to the press, they discussed plans of a physical elimination of the well-known lawyer Andrey Makarov.

Agreement Reached on Dismantling Ukraine's Nuclear Weapons

LD2008112493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0322 GMT 20 Aug 93

[From the "Radiostudio Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] Russia and Ukraine have reached mutual understanding on the question of dismantling nuclear weapons stationed on Ukrainian territory. Viktor Mikhaylov, Russia's minister of nuclear power engineering, a member of the Russian delegation at the talks in Kiev, said that the sides had reached agreement on the basic principles for compensation to Ukraine for the dismantling and for the nuclear materials.

The Russian minister categorically rejected the possibility that Ukraine could become a nuclear power in the near future. As if to confirm Viktor Mikhaylov's words, Ukraine's Defence Ministry press service has distributed a statement that states in essence, that the Ukrainian military are not elaborating, and are not trying to gain possession of the codes to control the strategic nuclear forces stationed on the territory of the republic.

Ukrainian Envoy Urges End to 'Economic Cold War'

LD1908183493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1757 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Olga Proskurina]

[Text] Moscow August 19 TASS— Russia and Ukraine should stop "the economic cold war" and should begin the advance to a mutually-advantageous reasonable integration, Ukrainian Ambassador to Russia Volodymyr Krzhanitskiy said today. The main obstacle to this at present is that Ukraine lacks roubles to repay the debt for energy carriers. This debt made up around one billion dollars by early August and continues to grow, the ambassador said.

Krzhanitskiy addressed a news conference devoted to the state of the Ukrainian-Russian relations and to the result of the visit to Moscow by Ukrainian Premier Leonid Kuchma.

The ambassador believes the solution of the problem is not promoted by the fact that Russia began to supply oil and gas at prices close to world ones. Ukraine is living through a financial crisis and has a shortage of own natural resources. Krzhanitskiy recalled the Dashava-Moscow gas pipeline which supplied the Russian capital with gas over 25 years. But by late eighties all Ukrainian gas deposits were depleted and their development was stopped. Coal mining in the Donetsk basin was also halted although there are considerable reserves that can be mined. No mines are being built.

Russia's aid in supplying fuel to Ukraine before the harvest season somewhat eased tension regarding this matter. Krzhanitskiy said that the harvest in Ukraine this year is so large that the Ukrainian Government considers the possibility of shipping to Russia five million tonnes of grain toward repaying the debt.

Belarus' Shushkevich Makes 'Emergency Visit' to Moscow

MK2008082593 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 Aug 93 p 4

[Oleg Medvedev report: "Shushkevich Cuts Short His Vacation To Talk With Yeltsin"]

[Text] Suppositions about Leonid Kravchuk's participation in yesterday's Russian-Belarusian meeting did not materialize: The presidents of Russia and Ukraine will meet in Crimea on 3 September. Meanwhile, Boris Yeltsin held talks yesterday with Chairman of the Belarus Supreme Soviet Stanislav Shushkevich. The report by the presidential press service on the results of the meeting was extremely laconic: The leaders of the two countries discussed matters of bilateral relations, in particular economic cooperation.

After serious problems emerged last week over Russian energy deliveries to Belarus, Stanislav Shushkevich urgently interrupted his vacation to make an emergency visit to Moscow. He arrived in the Russian capital in a fairly modest manner—by the regular Minsk-Moscow No. 2 passenger train. On the eve of the trip, Shushkevich stated that Belarus intends to enter the new ruble zone and wants to receive part of the Russian state credit in cash.

Shushkevich's visit to Moscow was unexpected for yet another reason. Normally, in order to address matters related to economic cooperation between Russia and Belarus, Belarussian Premier Vyacheslav Kebich comes to Moscow. He appears to be the main "pusher," arranging in Moscow offices the delivery of the particular resources required by Belarus. Apparently Shushkevich is discontent with his opponent's monopoly over the dialogue with Russia. Moreover the Belarus parliament speaker, who has on many occasions publicly supported Yeltsin in his struggle with the Russian Supreme Soviet, expected during the course of his trip to Moscow to ensure Yeltsin's moral support as the fall showdown approaches in the Belarus Supreme Soviet, which is controlled by Kebich's allies. They are expected to make another attempt to depose the speaker, whom they regard as too much of a democrat.

It looks as though Yeltsin, however, is happier after all with the conservative Kebich than the liberal Shushkevich. Generally, both of them make sure that Belarus follows in the wake of Russia's policy. But in contrast to Kebich, who, according to Belarussian opposition leaders, "is ready to give everything to Russia," Shushkevich has one major shortcoming: He is against Belarus' membership in any CIS collective security system.

It is not ruled out that Boris Yeltsin, during yesterday's meeting, tried, using economic arguments, to persuade Shushkevich to revise his position on collective security. Belarus' presence in this system would undoubtedly be more beneficial not to itself, but rather to Russia, given the military strategic situation of the Belarusian state.

On the whole, Belarus, in spite of disagreements in the upper echelons, seems to be the state among the former Union republics that is the most loyal to Russia. Judging by the statements and actions of some of its leaders, it is ready to sacrifice for the sake of an economic union not only part but probably all of its sovereignty.

Last week, a delegation of the Belarus parliamentary majority visited Moscow. According to its leader, Gennadiy Kozlov, the Belarus Supreme Soviet will continue to insist that relations with Russia "should approximate a family-like relationship." Mr. Kozlov spoke in favor of an economic union not of three but of two states, meaning that Ukraine should not be included.

Gennadiy Kozlov's proposals received a wide response in the Russian parliament, where plans emerged to hold a joint session of the Russian and Belarusian Supreme Soviets, which could approve confederative relations between the two countries. In Russia, it seems that the two branches of power have sensed Belarus' readiness for substantive political concessions for the sake of economic rapprochement and have decided to take advantage of it.

Interviewed on Meeting With Yeltsin

LD1908143193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1223 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] [Announcer] As we have already reported, Boris Yeltsin, the president of Russia, and Stanislav Shushkevich, the chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, had a working meeting in Kremlin today. Our correspondent Yuliy Semenov has also been at the Grand Kremlin Palace and here he is:

[Semenov] You know how it is; journalists are only allowed in during the first part of the meeting. The host and the guest met in the so-called Green Salon. Prior to that Stanislav Shushkevich watched a direct transmission of Boris Yeltsin's news conference. He liked it and congratulated him. Later, they shut the doors and began the talks. We saw that Viktor Gerashchenko, the chairman of Russia's Central Bank, went there as well. It was obvious that the talks were going to revolve around economic problems. After the meeting, we managed to see Stanislav Shushkevich and he answered my questions, as well as those of my colleagues.

[Begin recording] [Shushkevich] We covered quite a few topics. We are getting ready for for a broader meeting on 7 September. I think that the exchange of opinions on the approaches to problems was very good. I was very pleased that we see these matters in the same light.

[Unidentified correspondent] Did you discuss bilateral issues?

[Shushkevich] One cannot conceal from you the fact that Belarus is in a rather difficult economic situation. The problem is that even in 1991, not to mention previous years, we had a considerable trade surplus in our trade with Russia. We believe that trying to reach world market prices is a correct process. However, if a good process goes on at a very high speed dictated by the situation, things may be destroyed which should not be destroyed. We are already witnessing it. I am happy that the president understands our difficulties very well, and I hope that on Monday, at a very high level, with the participation of Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin, we will discuss in concrete terms issues related to our economic cooperation. There is a whole range of specific projects. I informed the president about them today. Once again, I am glad that there is a clear understanding of our situation and of what both sides might lose if these issues are not resolved constructively. Ways toward discussing these issues on an urgent basis and making decisions have been defined; that is, the issues will be settled before the president's departure for Poland.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you think the initiative put forward by Saparmurad Niyazov and Eduard Shevardnadze regarding a meeting of the leaders of all former USSR republics outside the CIS framework has any future?

[Shushkevich] I heard this question at Yeltsin's news conference today. I fully agree with the answer given by Boris Nikolayevich because, you see, each meeting requires the most thorough preparations. We are ready for a meeting on 7 September, but we are not ready for a meeting of this kind. I think, however, that this can be discussed on 7 September in the group of leaders which has already crystallized.

[Unidentified correspondent] May I ask one more question? This is Ostankino Radio and TV Company. One gets a somewhat strange impression: On the one hand, an economic union within the framework of the CIS is formed, the relevant documents are ready and, as far as I know, they will be discussed at the meeting on 7 September; on the other hand, an economic union of three states—Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus—is being formed. How does the one correspond with the other?

[Shushkevich] I think the latter stimulates the former. In my opinion, the former is more important. You see, however, it is more difficult to come to an agreement on a number of issues in a discussion with many participants. If a narrower circle finds a solution, it will probably be easier for the others to join. I consider this as a way of encouraging a broader union because, you see, I think it would be absolutely inadmissible to introduce restrictions or alienate anyone from this union. [end recording]

Status of Lithuania Withdrawal Talks Viewed

MK2008095593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 93 p 1

[Tamara Nikolayeva report: "Russian Troop Withdrawal Suspended; New Troubles of a 'Political Affair'"]

[Excerpts] For some reason it is the worst predictions that tend to come true in Lithuanian-Russian relations, or in what Vytautas Landsbergis, the right-wing opposition leader, succinctly called a "political affair" between Lithuania and Russia. As I was preparing an article on the eve of a meeting between Lithuanian and Russian statesmen in early August, I presumed that the talks that were conducted in a situation of a clear impasse (the phrasing of paragraph 12 of the agreement on the withdrawal of Russian troops and on making good the damage done to Lithuania starting in 1940, proposed by the Lithuanian side, ruled out any possibility of reaching any compromise solution) would at best yield no results or, at worst, add to the tension. This is what actually happened. On 18 August, Audrius Butkevicius, Lithuanian territorial protection minister, said at a press conference that his ministry had received reports via unofficial channels that the Russian Federation Defense Ministry had issued an order advising military units deployed in Lithuania (or rather the remainder of them) that the troops' withdrawal was to be suspended because Lithuania had taken an erroneous stance in the talks vis-a-vis Russia. According to Audrius Butkevicius, this information was confirmed in his telephone conversation with Colonel General Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Defense Ministry's General Staff, and Colonel General Moiseyev, the Russian Federation's authorized representative on matters of the Russian troops' withdrawal. [passage omitted]

Let us try to weigh the motives and consequences of the decision to put the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Lithuania on hold. Russia undoubtedly wants to have an agreement taking into account its interests and to avoid creating a "Lithuanian precedent" for Latvia and Estonia, with whom talks are progressing along an even bumpier road, by pulling out its troops without a matching agreement. All this is understandable, but at present this looks like a brandishing of fists when the fight is over, and may not necessarily press Lithuania to actively search for a compromise (which would obviously be a good thing); it could also (which is very bad) cause a new surge of anti-Russian and anti-Army sentiments in Lithuania, particularly on the eve of a visit by the Pope, as well as in Latvia and Estonia, which will immediately affect the position of the Russian-speaking population there, who have long had to pay for the mistakes of Russia's Baltic policy. As a matter of fact, is this not the reason that departures of Russian servicemen's families from Lithuania have been on the increase of late? This fact was emphasized at the press conference by Stasis Knezis, chief of staff of the Lithuanian Armed Forces.

Have all other tacks really been exhausted, except for pressure? Is Russian diplomacy really so weak and politicians as singleminded as steam engines? Indeed, it is a hard task to forge ties with the Baltic states, which have until the present day based their policies on confrontation with Russia and have applied to Russia their attitude toward the former USSR, to their own detriment and the detriment of others. But in Lithuania not everyone approves of this policy; many people believe that one has to be guided by pragmatism, realizing one's own possibilities and taking into account the current realities and the partner's interests in order to achieve a positive result in state relations with Russia. Otherwise, write Bronius Ausejus and Algirdas Kvedaravicius, lawyers and candidates of law, in VECHERNIYE NOVOSTI, a cold war phenomenon could emerge, and it is hard to predict what a cold war escalation between two neighboring states can lead to. The most difficult round of talks, the well-known Lithuanian analysts say, which concern damage repayment, should have been put off until a later period, the more so because the proposed ways of resolving the issue, in their view, are of a utopian nature since they lack an international legal foundation, and international bodies are unlikely to support the $10-billion damages claimed by Lithuania from Russia. "Why pull the wool over the Lithuanians' eyes then?" the authors ask. The answer is evident. We have made it our principle to press Russia to assume the USSR's debt for the occupation.

We are being forced to play in a political masquerade, where it is known in advance that Russia will not accept our claims. Will we be able to resolve all the other problems in relations with Russia by moving the issue to the realm of international jurisdiction, or will we aggravate relations to the point of a cold war? What we should do is not argue over trifles, not juggle accusations, but seriously negotiate with Russia the return of Lithuanian citizens' deposits worth around one billion in old rubles (now it would be $3.5 billion). Hard-currency deposits at the Vneshekonombank [Foreign Economic Relations Bank] should also be claimed. The scale of environmental damage done by the Russian army starting 1 January 1992 should be assessed. This is what Russia has pledged to repay anyway. We will receive around $5 billion, but Russia will be unable to pay even this amount in cash. Agreement could be reached to pay in kind—with energy and other resources. A bird in hand is worth two in the bush.

Another part of the question is: How much good will remains with the current Lithuanian authorities, who must not only reckon with the right-wing opposition, which suffers from chronic Russophobia, but must also at times kowtow to its unshakable ideological principles instead of their own pragmatism. Hence the zigzags and wavering back and forth in Lithuanian-Russian relations and in agreements that appear to have already been reached, exacerbated by a lack of coordination between two parallel structures—the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry and the Lithuanian state delegation at the talks that

has been put above the government—which hamper Russia's efforts to make a correct and comprehensive assessment of the situation. [passage omitted]

Defense Ministry Statement on Suspension of Troop Pullout

PM2008104093 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Aug 93 p 1

[Statement by Russian Federation Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate: "Withdrawal of Troops From Lithuania Suspended"]

[Text] At the latest round of Russian-Lithuanian talks held in Moscow at the beginning of August, the Lithuanian side submitted for examination a new version of the draft agreement on the withdrawal of the Russian Federation Armed Forces from the territory of the Republic of Lithuania.

The text of the proposed agreement differs significantly from the draft document drawn up earlier as a result of work by the two delegations, and also from the draft sent to Moscow by the president of the Republic of Lithuania in May of this year, and contains demands which are known to be unacceptable to the Russian side. In addition, the Lithuanian delegation has omitted from the new draft all provisions relating to its own commitments with regard to Russian servicemen who are on Lithuanian territory. Thus the Lithuanian side, by unexpectedly rejecting the draft agreement on which joint work had been in progress since spring of last year, has in effect proposed that the negotiation process begin again from scratch.

In this connection the decision was adopted temporarily to suspend the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania. The withdrawal will be resumed following the attainment of a mutually acceptable interstate agreement on this matter and the signing of an official document on the troop withdrawal.

[Signed] Russian Federation Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate

Foreign Ministry States Conditions for Pullout

LD2008110793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0935 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, 20 Aug—The Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry stated today that the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania can be renewed if the Lithuanian side does not retreat from agreements already reached between the two countries.

"The Russian Federation," the document says, "had until now carried out a systematic withdrawal of its troops from the territory of the Lithuania republic, despite the fact that the agreement on troop withdrawal, the basic document that regulates all sides of this process, remained unsigned." Recently, however, the statement continues, "it has been said openly in Lithuania, including at the very highest levels, that it is not worthwhile signing an agreement with Russia on the withdrawal of Russia troops—they will go anyway with or without an agreement, it is said."

A meeting was held in Moscow on 5 August between Russian and Lithuanian state delegations. At the meeting, the Lithuanian representatives effectively refused the practically ready draft agreement and presented a new one, with conditions that were clearly unacceptable to Russia. "At the same time, in Lithuania," the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry document emphasizes, "the public campaign to refuse to sign the agreement, in which not only representatives of the opposition but also members of the Lithuanian state delegation to the negotiations with Russia took part, grew stronger."

The position adopted by the Lithuanian side, says the Foreign Affairs Ministry statement, "forces us to recall that the fact that the agreement on troop withdrawal has not been signed frees Russia from the duties of damage compensation, arms transfer, and so on laid down in it, as well as the troop withdrawal timetable, that, as we know, is juridically invalid without the basic agreement."

So, the statement says, the Russian side has decided to suspend the withdrawal of its troops, and calls on the leadership of the Lithuanian republic to make an effort to provide the legal basis for the withdrawal of Russian troops. "It is still not too late to make the completion of this process a factor that unites instead of dividing the peoples of Russia and Lithuania," hoped the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Yeltsin To Meet Shevardnadze in Moscow 23 Aug

LD1908143993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1432 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, August 19 (TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin will meet Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian head of state, in Moscow on August 23, a source in the president's staff told ITAR-TASS today.

The negotiations are expected to cover the whole range of bilateral relations, including problems of settling the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict and Russia's peacekeeping role in the process.

President Yeltsin told press-conference today that his meeting with Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba is scheduled for the coming week.

Georgian Envoy Previews Talks

LD2008124593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1142 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Gvritishvili]

[Text] Moscow, August 20 (TASS)—"The direction in which Russian-Georgian relations will develop in the close perspective will depend a great deal on the results of a working meeting between Russian President Yeltsin and Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, scheduled for August 23," Georgian Ambassador to Russia Valerian Advadze said at a press conference today.

Responding to the question of ITAR-TASS, he said that the meeting would become a crucial stage on the way to signing a treaty of friendship and cooperation between Russia and Georgia. According to the ambassador, the date of signing the treaty could be named as a result of the talks, although its implementation would depend on how irreversible a peaceful settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict becomes and to what extent Yeltsin and his team control the situation in the country.

Advadze strongly criticised in this connection the stand assumed by the Russian parliament. In his opinion, by adopting several resolutions on Abkhazia, it actually imposed economic boycott on Georgia. Advadze said he had met Ruslan Khasbulatov on Thursday who had told him that he would do his utmost for securing the adoption of the future Russian-Georgian treaty by parliament. Khasbulatov said he intended to invite a Georgian parliamentary delegation to Moscow for the purpose of establishing closer contacts between the legislative authorities of the two countries.

Arms Confiscated From Armenian President's Security Guards

LD2008010493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1310 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi, 19 Aug—Nine Orel sub-machine guns of Armenian make and one AKSU submachine gun were confiscated by Interior Ministry staff from security guards of the Inpromservis commercial production company, the chairman of which is Artem Atalyants, a well-known Sochi businessman and adviser on foreign economic relations to the president of Armenia. This was revealed to journalists at a news conference today by Mikhail Oleynik, head of the Krasnodar Kray Directorate of Internal Affairs department for combating organized crime.

Mikhail Oleynik said the staff of his department observed armed people guarding the office of Artem Atalyants, which is situated in the holiday block of the Frunze sanatorium in Sochi. The armed people presented identification cards which said that they were employed in the protection service of the president of Armenia and the republic's top officials. They did not have permission from the Russian authorities to possess and carry arms.

On 16 August the procurator of Sochi sanctioned the search of the firm's office. The search resulted in three Orel submachine guns and one foreign-made pistol being found. Mikhail Oleynik noted that one of the members of the protection service prevented the militia entering the grounds of the holiday block saying that they were the territory of sovereign Armenia and that Russian laws were not valid there. Viktor Nikitin, deputy head of the Sochi Directorate of Internal Affairs, underlined at the news conference that the staff of the Armenian president's protection service have the right to carry arms in the territory of Armenia but by no means in the territory of Russia.

An investigation has been launched into the unlawful possession of arms.

Russian Troops Being Prosecuted in Former Soviet States

LD2008093893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0907 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow August 20 TASS—Several groups of Russian troops are criminally prosecuted in some former Soviet republics. The Military Procurator's Office of the Russian Federation seeks to get investigative materials on them, ITAR-TASS learnt at the Chief Military Procurator's Office on Friday.

The point in question are ex-servicemen of the Seventh Army convicted in Baku for their participation in combat operations against Azerbaijan and a group of paratroopers in Moldova accused of crimes against private property of local residents.

Representatives of the Russian Military Procurator's Office went to Baku and Chisinau and examined investigative materials and met the accused. The latter did not voice any complaints about violence or the use of illegal methods of investigation against them.

The Russian procurator-general requested the heads of Azeri and Moldovan law enforcement bodies to hand over the convicted Russian troops to serve their sentences in Russia. According to the Russian Chief Military Procurator's Office, actions by convicted servicemen were not connected with the fulfilment of military duties and were committed, disregarding the interests of military service.

Military Procurator's Offices subordinated to the Russian procurator-general operate in Dushanbe and Tiraspol to protect the interests of Russian servicemen. The Military Procurator's Office helped to release from custody several officers interned at Turkmenistan's investigative wards on charges of committing crimes.

Contacts were established with the Turkmenian Procurator's Office, and talks are under way to transfer investigative materials on Russian servicemen to the Russian Military Procurator's Office.

West's 'Dissatisfaction' Over Submarine Sales to Iran Noted

PM1908150793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2000 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Announcer-read report over video of submarine at sea; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Mikhail Osokin] A third Russian-made submarine will be added to the Iranian Navy arsenal in the near future. This was announced today by Rear Admiral Shamkhani, commander of the Iranian Navy.

Tehran has ordered three submarines from Russia, the second of which arrived in the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas this month.

Iran is the only Persian Gulf state which has a submarine fleet. Arab Gulf states have expressed concern in connection with Tehran's purchase of the Russian submarines. This step also provoked dissatisfaction in the West. As soon as the first submarine appeared in Iranian waters, the United States and Britain dispatched a number of their nuclear submarines to the Persian Gulf.

Yeltsin Aide To Meet Japanese Premier 'Next Month'

OW2008025993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0251 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, Aug. 20 KYODO—A top aide to Russian President Boris Yeltsin will visit Japan and meet Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa next month, diplomatic sources said Friday [20 August].

Former State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis, who is regarded as a powerful figure in Russia and influential on Yeltsin's political strategy, is due to arrive in Tokyo on September 1.

The meeting will mark the first occasion for Hosokawa to have personal contact with a leading Russian figure close to Yeltsin since Hosokawa's coalition government took power earlier this month.

Burbulis is also expected to visit Nemuro, a northern Japanese city facing the disputed Russian-held islands, on September 7 and 8. Nemuro is a fishing base located on the southeastern tip of Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

The visit to Nemuro is taken as rather exceptional since the city works as a virtual foothold of Japan's decades-long campaign for the return of the four disputed islands off Hokkaido—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets.

The Japanese Government at first worried the visit might arouse anti-Japan sentiment among Russians who oppose bilateral negotiations on the territorial dispute, the sources said.

But Tokyo changed course, thinking it might be good to give Burbulis a chance to know the sentiment among Japanese for the return of the islands which the former Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II.

Burbulis' visit to Japan is also expected to be an opportunity for Tokyo to learn if Yeltsin is really ready to visit Japan in the middle of October as suggested, the sources said.

The Japanese Government has been puzzled by recent remarks by Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin that no territorial disputes exist between Japan and Russia, and that Moscow will reject negotiations with Japan on the matter.

Yeltsin abruptly canceled his official trip to Japan last September, later blaming Tokyo for its inflexible attitude on the territorial dispute.

Yeltsin came to Tokyo in July for talks with heads of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations and said at that time he would visit Japan in mid-October.

Burbulis is also scheduled to visit the ancient capital of Kyoto in western Japan and deliver speeches on Russian politics and Russo-Japan relations, the sources said.

Japan's Line on Kurils Not in 'Long-Term Interests'

PM2008110693 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Aug 93 p 3

[Viktor Vinogradov article: "It Is in the Interests of Both Russia and Japan To Develop Bilateral Relations"]

[Text] It would have been naive to assume that Russian Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin, during his visit to Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands, would not speak out about the so-called territorial problem. And he did indeed speak out, saying, according to press reports, that for him the question of the northern territories "does not exist."

Japan reacted immediately to this view expressed by the Russian prime minister. Official Tokyo hastily expressed regret at Chernomyrdin's statement. A special document was published by the Japanese foreign policy department, entitled "Commentary by the Foreign Ministry Press Secretary on Russian Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's Remarks on the Problem of the Northern Territories." This document points out that "if news reports on the Russian prime minister's remarks are true, then these statements are contrary to the fundamentals of the Russian Government's policy line and are regrettable."

This document adopts, on the whole, a restrained tone. But foreign ministries are supposed to show restraint. Japan's mass media, however, are not restraining themselves. Thus KYODO is already predicting that as a result of Chernomyrdin's statement another period of cooling of Russian-Japanese relations can hardly be

avoided. And it even suggests that all this could lead to another, a third, postponement of President B.N. Yeltsin's visit to Japan.

If events take the course predicted by KYODO, it will mean that Tokyo does not intend to show flexibility on this question, which is very important for our two countries. After all, B.N. Yeltsin's visit to the Land of the Rising Sun could undoubtedly be an extremely important step, if not as regards a rapprochement between Russia's and Japan's positions, then at least as regards clarifying them.

And that is highly necessary, because, as M. Hosokawa stated at his first press conference after being elected prime minister, he intends to build relations with Russia only through the prism of the "northern territories." But this is hardly sensible, in the light of the long-term interests of both Russia and Japan itself.

Adamishin Interviewed on Relations With Japan

LD1908151093 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Interview with First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Adamishin by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; Adamishin speaks in Russian fading to English translation—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] What are the principles that are currently adhered to by Russia in its relations with our eastern neighbor Japan?

[Adamishin] In general the principles we observe in our relations with Japan are similar to those we are guided by in our relations with the rest of the world's countries. You can appreciate that we are in favor of having the best relations possible with Japan and we are in favor of attracting Japanese capital to develop our country. We are also in favor of establishing the promotion of political, cultural, and other cooperation. This means that these principles are not any different from the principles we apply to other countries.

The main problem now is that of the territories. In my opinion it is not us but the Japanese, who have driven themselves into a blind alley. Practically all the questions have been reduced by them to the problem of the four South Kuril Islands. The new government of Japan too, put forward the settlement of the problem of the territories as one of its major agendas, as you know. No matter who is right or who is to blame the dispute concerning the territories between the two countries invariably causes pain.

Now with our public opinion being so electrified even in these days, the islands are becoming essentially an object of political struggle. The most reasonable thing to do would be to put the question aside. We have to allow time to do its job. In the long run I just see no convincing motives for hasty decisions. The only motives being the ambition of some political figures who put pressure precisely on this very problem. I believe that it would be very desirable that the Japanese Government should be at last able to approach the question leaving out emotions or internal passions. It would be good if we could find such a model of bilateral cooperation which would promote development of our normal relations with Japan. This, in turn, might contribute to a solution on the territorial problem.

[Correspondent] Do you think that this question may arise during the talks (?of) the planned visit of Boris Yeltsin to Japan?

[Adamishin] Yes, it will certainly arise. No matter what the Japanese declare they are sure to ask this question. However, I think that the time for solving this problem has not yet come. You will not deny that it is quite obvious that even in relations between people it is like this. When two clever men understand that they are not able to agree on some question what do they do? They put this question aside and in the meantime deal with other problems. This is only my personal point of view but it is precisely such an approach that would be most useful in finding a solution to the problem we are addressing in Russian-Japanese relations.

Japanese Delegation Visits Balakovskaya Nuclear Station

PM1908155793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1425 GMT 17 Aug 93

[By Sergey Kurbatov from Saratov; from the "Ostankino Presents—Points of the Compass" program]

[Excerpt] [Kurbatov over video of Katsuhiko Uno, general deputy director of the Ginkai nuclear power station in Japan] I did not risk asking the leader of the Japanese delegation what he thinks of the level of safety at the Balakovskaya AES [nuclear electric power station] because it is unlikely that he could give a precise answer. Three days is not long enough even for experts to establish an opinion about the AES. It is easier for the laymen among us. They tend to have a stock answer to hand. During the interview, Katsuhiko Uno talked about the benefits of international cooperation. Incidentally, the Japanese delegation is the 20th this year to visit. Before them came the Germans, the Americans, the French, the English; in fact, it is hard to think of anybody who has not visited the Balakovskiy AES. The question of safety is central in all nuclear power stations around the world. The staff at the Balakovskaya AES understands this perfectly. Otherwise they would not have been able to run the fourth power unit this year. Although the difficulties were not so much economic as political. [passage omitted]

Military Cooperation With PRC 'Does Not Pose a Threat'

OW1908135393 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1000 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Commentary by commentator Korolev; from the "Sunday Outlook" program]

[Text] Zhang Wannian, chief of staff of the People's Liberation Army of China, is currently on an official visit to Moscow. He will discuss efforts to promote bilateral ties in military technology when he meets with Russian military leaders.

Station commentator Korolev pointed this out: The trade volume between Russia and China in the military field totalled about $2 billion in the past one year. The achievement was made possible by the significant improvement of ties between Moscow and Beijing. China and Russia, the two big powers, are neighbors. To a great extent, bilateral ties between the two countries dictate the international situation, especially in Asia, and the whole world is satisfied with the positive development in their ties, which are on a steep rise. The Russian-Chinese border issue, which created tensions between the two countries for a long time, is being resolved, and border trade between the countries is also flourishing.

The joint statement signed by Russian President Yeltsin when he visited Beijing at the end of last year formally determined the character of the current Russo-Chinese contacts in all fields. It was emphatically declared then that stronger cooperation between Russia and China will not in any case harm the interests of other nations, and this also applies to military cooperation between the two countries.

Commenting on the visit by China's chief of staff to Moscow, a spokesman of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: It does not pose a threat to third countries.

Commentary Urges ROK, DPRK To Stop Mutual Denunciation

SK1908042693 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 18 Aug 93

[From the "Today's World" program]

[Text] Some time ago, the ROK asked Israel to refrain from seeking improvement in relations with North Korea until the nuclear situation is fully resolved.

Our station commentator Kondratyev writes:

The two sides do not seem likely to easily stop slandering each other. This time, Pyongyang again responded to Seoul's new denunciation with another attack. Pyongyang condemned Seoul for attempting to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise with the United States. Pyongyang said that they will take due measures against the slightest sign of moves to resume the exercise. Seoul will probably come up with a countermeasure against this.

North Korea should clear up its nuclear development plan. The ROK must also make efforts to (?modify) Team Spirit, an annual military exercise. Pyongyang used the resumption of Team Spirit as a pretext to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and to avoid international inspection of its nuclear technology last May.

I think that the two sides should reconsider slandering one another. This is a precondition to achieving denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. North-South dialogue should be revived. The two sides may then be able to dispel mutual distrust, settle disputes, and regain trust from the peaceful dialogue process.

It is high time the two sides stopped slandering each other to sit down before the bargaining table. The ceaseless mutual denunciation only downgrades the international prestige of Pyongyang and Seoul.

[illegible]dian Ambassador Interviewed on Status of [illegible]ssian Ties

PM2008094793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Aug 93 First Edition p 9

[Interview with Ranendra Sen, Indian ambassador to Russia, by Aleksey Bausin; place and date not given: "The Task Is Ensuring Not Only Economic Growth, But Social Justice"]

[Excerpts] ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's questions were answered by Mr. Ranendra Sen, Indian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Russia. [passage omitted]

[Bausin] In the past, relations between India and the Soviet Union were always "special." How are Russo-Indian contacts developing now?

[Sen] It has to be noted that we are not building our bilateral relations from scratch. Nobody should forget the rich legacy of Soviet-Indian friendship, which was based not on opportunistic considerations, but on the feelings between our peoples and mutual interest. We can now preserve many of the useful elements of our former cooperation and introduce something new, taking account of the changes that have taken place in both countries and in the world.

[Bausin] The disintegration of the USSR brought in its wake serious problems in our bilateral trade...

[Sen] Yes, the fact is that our trade relations are no longer regulated at the intergovernmental level, as was the case in the past. We are now trying to organize direct contacts between firms and enterprises. Naturally, trade volumes have fallen sharply, but I think that we will be able to stabilize the situation in the next two years. Do not forget that India is one of the largest markets in Asia.

[Bausin] The collapse of the USSR also created very serious problems for the Indian Armed Forces, 70 percent of whose equipment is Soviet-made...

[Sen] There has recently been some progress in this area, although it is too soon to talk about a final solution to the problem. We are looking for nontraditional forms of cooperation—for example, the creation of joint ventures in the sphere of military aircraft production. There are probably more MiG's in India than in any other country—outside of Russia, of course.

[Bausin] Could Russia's suspension of the rocket engine contract complicate our relations in the future?

[Sen] We regret this turn of events.

Kozyrev Says Russia, Pakistan To Boost Relations

LD1908140693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1312 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR TASS correspondent Andrey Palariya]

[Text] Moscow August 19 TASS—"Russia and Pakistan are going to boost their relations", Andrey Kozyrev stated on Thursday after the meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Abdus Sattar.

The Russian foreign minister expressed gratitude to the leadership of Pakistan for the efforts to return home ex-Soviet citizens who became POW's in Afghanistan as well as for the support in the settlement of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Abdus Sattar mentioned the Pakistani leadership's "new vision" of relations with Moscow, which, according to the minister, have good prospects. Sattar said that in addition to bilateral relations he and Kozyrev discussed the role of Pakistan in the Tajik-Afghan settlement.

On the eve of his meeting with a delegation from the Islamic Conference Organization, Andrey Kozyrev spoke against lifting the embargo on arms deliveries to Muslims in ex-Yugoslavia. "The main thing now is not to think about new military action, but to complete the process of negotiations on the settlement in the region", Andrey Kozyrev stressed.

Political Issues

Press Minister Fedotov Resigns, Issues Statement

LD2008154193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1432 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, 20 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The press bureau of the Russian Ministry of the Press and Information today published a statement by Mikhail Fedotov. It says: "Today's Russian Federation Supreme Soviet vote on the issue of amendments to the law on the mass media has shown that the deputies have openly and uncompromisingly gone down the road of stifling press freedom in Russia. The amendments, draconian in essence and anti-constitutional in their legal nature, mean an end to the pluralism of opinions which has become firmly established in periodicals and on radio and television thanks to the law on the mass media. In particular the legitimization of the so-called observor councils signifies the absolute supremacy of representative authority over state television and radio broadcasting and the usurpation of the right to express opinions on air.

"My actions in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet as representative of the president during the repeat discussions of the issue of amendments met a blind wall of incomprehension and principled nonacceptance of any proposals, even compromise proposals, aimed at somehow lessening the blow conceived of by parliament against the freedom of the mass media.

"In such a situation I can no longer see any sense in continuing my work as Russian press and information minister. I am leaving this post for political reasons, because, by my convictions, I do not want and cannot be the grave digger of press freedom. My official position would force me to implement a law stifling this freedom. Unrestrained by certain legal and moral norms attendant upon the status of minister, I will continue our common struggle to establish freedom and democracy in Russia. I call on all journalists, all people, who hold dear the fate of freedom of thought and speech, to join in the struggle against this law on the mass media, of which I was one of the authors but which in the hands of deputies has become a weapon to suppress freedom and democracy. I am convinced that we must constantly remember that freedom of speech is the first to perish, and all other human rights and freedoms perish subsequently."

Anti-Corruption Commission Holds News Conference

LD1908201593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1605 GMT 18 Aug 93

[News conference by Interdepartmental Anti-Corruption Commission members, including Justice Minister Yuriy Kalmykov; Aleksey Ilyushenko, head of the control directorate of the president's administration; Aleksandr Kotenkov, head of the state and legal directorate of the president's administration; and Andrey Makarov, head of the directorate for ensuring the activity of the Security Council's Interdepartmental Anti-Corruption Commission, with introduction by Vitaliy Glushanin, deputy head of the Foreign Ministry's press center, in Moscow on 18 August—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [Glushanin] ... Aleksandr Alekseyevich Kotenkov, head of the state and legal directorate of the president's administration, and Andrey Mikhaylovich Makarov, head of the directorate for ensuring the activity of the Security Council's Interdepartmental Anti-Corruption Commission.

Today's news conference is far removed from international issues but since we are at the Foreign Ministry's press center I have been asked to chair the news conference. I am Vitaliy Aleksandrovich Glushanin, deputy head of the press center. Russian Justice Minister Yuriy Khamzatovich Kalmykov has the floor. [passage omitted]

[Kalmykov] Unfortunately, our commission has established a number of serious offenses committed by top officials in both branches of authority. I for one was shocked to find out that such prestigious ministries as the Ministry of Foreign Economic Links, the Ministry of the Economy, and other departments had sometimes grossly violated legislation on the setting of quotas and issuing licenses. Very important intergovernmental agreements were wrecked with Bulgaria and India on supplying 3 million tonnes of oil, or on supplying 4 million tonnes of oil to India. It turned out that the oil had been delivered not to the initial clients but, say, to Europe and we failed to receive the expected money. Capital remained and in some cases is still remaining in these European countries.

It was very sad to observe the way quotas had been issued for some strategic raw material—for instance, Irkutsk oblast received a regional quota for zirconium, a strategic item which is not produced at all over there. It found its way to Kaliningrad, then it was re-sold to a private company which subsequently took it abroad. In a word, we established quite a few facts of this nature. We sent proposals to the president regarding leaders and top government officials, and the president is now studying our proposals. One should mention that all these offenses are somehow linked to one company, Seabeco. I have the impression that this company is looming over our country as a menacing shadow. This company has set itself the task of undermining our state's economic might, to a degree, and with this task in mind, it tried to drag our state top officials into this net, this cobweb. To a considerable degree, it has succeeded because some leaders of law enforcement bodies have been caught in this net. I think that those dismissals, the organizational conclusions drawn by the president regarding certain leaders of the law enforcement bodies, were prompted precisely by the fact that profit-seeking actions involving very large sums of money were committed and, perhaps, not by the leaders themselves but by their very close relatives.

Very often these actions were explained by saying that hidden political motives were involved, and so on. Nothing of the kind! Some organizational measures were perceived or taken precisely on the basis of our commission's conclusions and proposals.

I want to say that firm is still taking some measures, and they are of an anti-state and, I would say, an anti-popular nature, and it does, unfortunately, have close ties with the Revival Foundation, about which a great deal is now being said in our country. Some say it is a good foundation and illustrates what fine things the foundation can do. Television recently showed how awards have been made to war and labor veterans and so on through the foundation. This would be fine if that were all there is to say. That is a noble aim. It is splendid. But we have proof that the Revival Foundation had a link with that firm and even that the building, the premises, that had been allocated to the Revival Foundation was owned by the Seabeco Company, and the fact that there was a draft for 20 million dollars in accordance with which 20 million dollars was transferred to some insignificant firm with an authorized capital of just $10,000 immediately prompts one to start wondering.

But our group is not an investigative one. We did, nevertheless, ask the control administration under the president to take some part in checking the foundation's activities together with the procuracy. After all, the control administration is a legitimate body that may engage in analysis and investigation of any infringements. But the control administration is not allowed near these matters.

There are also a lot of other facts that one could spend a very long time talking about here. I want to say that we came up against—and maybe this is the most serious matter—the fact that the proposals we are talking about and the facts that we know about and which are virtually on the surface are not actually being analyzed by the law enforcement bodies and, first and foremost, by the procurator general's office.

We take as our starting point that it is the procurator general's office that bears prime responsibility for everything, for the chaos and lawlessness in the fight against crime. The procurator general, a comparatively young man, needs to write fewer books—memoirs can be written later on—and to become involved in the fight against crime, in a situation in which one cannot go into the street, crime flourishes, and corruption flourishes. The Supreme Court passes a ruling of no confidence in the procurator general, but the man is unconcerned. In a normal society, any self-respecting lawyer would have resigned, of course. It is not just a wish or pronouncement by some party; it is a ruling by the highest judicial body.

At the interdepartmental commission today, our commission also voiced the recommendation, and it was accepted, that the question of the resignation of the procurator general of the Russian Federation should be raised. We also had our own grounds for this. Specifically, we took as our starting point the view that the procurator general was, and probably still is, on quite friendly terms with Mr. Yakubovskiy. A great deal is now being written and said about that man. I do not want to give him a reference now, but, in terms of ability, he has, of course, far outstripped that outstanding man Ostap Bender, who was trusted by many leaders of the law enforcement bodies, and he recorded all his telephone conversations with those people. He looked far ahead, and one recording found its way to us, to our commission.

It follows from this recording that when Yakubovskiy questioned the procurator general about the removal of one member of the commission—that actual word was not there, but the whole context, the whole sense of this conversation boiled down to that—the procurator general said: Well, what do you think? The text of this conversation exists. I think to myself, how can the procurator general's office be headed by a man who allows the possibility of an attempt on the life of a citizen of the Russian Federation?

In a word, today the interdepartmental commission has made a decision to set before the Supreme Soviet, the question of the procurator general's resignation. The interdepartmental commission has made a decision to request that the Constitutional Court consider the issue of the behavior of Vice President [Aleksandr] Rutskoy. There are facts that there is an account in a Swiss bank to which Vice President Rutskoy is linked. Money was put into this account—big sums of state money—by some companies in the Russian Federation. That is what I would like to say both regarding the work of our commission—this is a general picture of it—and regarding the decisions of the interdepartmental commission which were adopted today. Thank you.

[Glushanin] Your questions now, please, and, if possible, address them specifically to the participants in the news conference. And—our usual request—introduce yourself and name the media body which you represent. Thank you. [passage omitted: INTERFAX correspondent Pershin asks for the names of those within the government suspected of corruption to be given. The request is refused on legal grounds. RIA correspondent Bondarenko asks about Rutskoy's dachas and is given clarification on this issue.]

[Ilyushenko] I believe RTV-Parliament showed a film which was supposed to show that the vice president is not building a dacha, and basically that nothing is the way MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS would have us believe, where this was published. I have to say that all the documents which were published in the press are absolutely genuine, and I think that building work was stopped literally very recently for certain reasons.

[passage omitted]

[Kotenkov] I cannot say exactly at the moment how many dachas the vice president has because we simply

do not know this, but I am sure that the president has more than two dachas. I do not mean state dachas. As soon as our work on this matter is over, we will let the public know how many dachas the vice president has.

[Question indistinct]

[Ilyushenko] In regard to decisions of the interdepartmental commission being binding for the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Soviet, I have to say that of course they are not binding. I should like to remind you that the interdepartmental commission is an organ of the Security Council. The organ which examines the specific aspects of the issues in question—in this case, on combating corruption and crime—and prepares its proposals for the Security Council. The Security Council is itself a consultative body attached to the president. In accordance with the law on security, decisions taken by the Security Council are being implemented via presidential decrees. In other words, decisions taken by the interdepartmental commission should be examined by the Security Council and presented—as is in this case—in the form of a decision made by the president. Then it is submitted to the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Soviet—this time on the president's initiative. Only then such proposals become bound for examination. Just as it will be done in this case.

[passage omitted]

[Unidentified STERN correspondent addresses question to Ilyushenko] What cases of corruption and abuse of office in the Western Group of Troops do you know of? If such incidents took place, to what extent was Mr. Burlakov involved? What do you think of the report made in connection with the cases of corruption in the Western Group of Troops made by your predecessor Mr. Boldyrev?

[Ilyushenko] This, indeed, is a question which has faded a bit lately, in connection with various events taking place in our country. It was one of the central issues some months ago. [passage omitted]

I would like to say, on the whole, that on the president's order the head of the control directorate and the ministers of security and internal affairs were instructed to check all the allegations made by the vice president. His speech was thoroughly studied, the allegations were singled out, and finally we identified about 55 allegations made by the vice president. To date they have all been checked. Weekly reports signed by the three officials were sent to the president to brief him on progress of the check-up and the operational measures that were being taken to ensure Russia's economic security. The check-up has been completed, and I must say that a great deal of the allegations made by the vice president have not been confirmed. [passage omitted]

Second, the Revival Foundation. I must say that all the documents of the fund—it was mentioned here but not very clearly—all the documents of the fund have been physically, I repeat physically, brought to one or two—I am not sure—buildings of the Supreme Soviet and nobody but auditors, so they claim, are allowed access to them—I don't know how long auditing can go on.

At the same time we have documents at our disposal from which one can see today—I would like to stress that these documents are original—that millions of dollars have simply been stolen. In this connection we are constantly raising the question that we should be allowed to check this jointly with the Supreme Soviet and the procuracy. However, at the Supreme Soviet we are told that they are very sorry, but the documents are at the procuracy, and the procuracy says they do not have the documents. This is a very serious matter and I think today's press conference, first and foremost, should be in this direction. Not in the direction of a politicized struggle etc.

[passage omitted]

[Makarov] Concerning the latest accusations put forward by the procurator general in his speech at the Supreme Soviet, I have to say that on 22 July—I remember that day in particular because it is my birthday—at 0600 I heard a conversation with the procurator general in which a plan for my murder was discussed. I can read the text of this conversation now, and can offer journalists a cassette of this conversation. I think there will be no doubt about Stepankov's voice. Cassettes recorded with Stepankov's voice were subjected to examination by specialists, the leading specialists in phonoscopic research from various institutes. They reached a categorical conclusion that this is the voice of the procurator general and that there are no signs of tampering on the cassettes.

Two hours after the conversation the procurator general spoke in parliament, the Supreme Soviet, and demanded that criminal proceedings be instituted against Shumeyko. Therefore, it was not by accident that I began this episode. Moreover, I knew perfectly well that the equipment under contract had been supplied to the country. This was under discussion and the procurator general's aide was satisfied with this.

Should Shumeyko defend his honor in court in this case? Once again, I am deliberately trying to avoid the question whether Poltoranin, Shumeyko and others are guilty. These are problems connected with work of the procurator general. Under the circumstances does this person have the right to head the procuracy general? This is a question I ask myself. Excuse me for talking for so long. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Would you please read at least the most important parts of the conversation? It turns out that our procurator general is a criminal. [passage omitted]

[Makarov] I am sorry but our time is limited. We will give this conversation to the media and it will be published in full. I do not think it is worth quoting separate parts since the conversation lasted more than 20

minutes. It seems inexpedient to me to waste 20 minutes of the news conference by reproducing it now. [passage omitted]

We do not hide the fact that we have talked to Yakubovskiy and received some information from him. In this particular case the commission did not confine itself to evidence from Yakubovskiy or anyone else. The materials we received are from the control directorate, from the directorate for ensuring work of the interdepartmental commission and—I am not going to hide it from you—from the media. We study everything that is being published in the media at present—journalists' investigations—and we receive many documents from them.

I would also like to show—I think that this is quite an interesting document—Dmitriy Olegovich Yakubovskiy's identity card, that is, a photocopy of it, that says that he is an adviser on international legal issues to the procurator general. I think that all journalists will recognize Stepankov's signature. I think we will publish this document, too. I will mention that this identity card is valid until 31 December 1994.

[Correspondent] Here is my last question. [passage omitted] Regarding Justice Minister Kalmykov, there are rumors that you headed a nationalistic party that favored separation from Russia and now you have become our justice minister. I would like some clarification on this matter because we would like to be certain that the struggle against corruption is waged by people above suspicion.

[Kalmykov] Indeed, I headed the Congress of the Kabarda People, I was elected unanimously at the congress. It is difficult to argue when you are elected by the people. The congress never set itself the goal—it is all written down in the rules—of destroying Russia, separating from Russia, or something similar. This was reflected in my numerous articles published in the central press so therefore you can be sure on this account that I had no radical nationalistic ideas and have always advocated the unity of Russia.

[Makarov] [passage omitted] The most terrifying thing today is that our work has shown that we are fighting not against corrupt individuals but that we have exposed a system which, in essence, has the following structure. At the base there are commercial firms set up in our country. I repeat, I will only speak about a very narrow area and will only mention the facts we are confident about. This refers to firms set up here by the Seabeco Company. The Seabeco Company, in essence, came into being through taking CPSU money abroad. It was precisely in this case that we found its first traces. Further, the company started propagating, if I may say so. It subdivides further, and in so doing captures an increasingly large share of our foreign economic activities. Even today we can name a whole range of organizations through which millions, tens of millions of dollars went abroad to Seabeco and its firms. The operation of this system has become possible only because it has been under the protection and patronage of mid-level officials. These are officials working in the legislature and some officials in the executive. They will be named. As far as I know, the decision has already been made to relieve Deputy Economics Minister Yuriy Olkhovikov, of his duties. This resolution was signed yesterday. He is not the first one, and may well not be the last.

But even this would not be possible if, above these people, there were no officials of immeasurably higher status. Yuriy Khamzatovich [Kalmykov] mentioned earlier that a specific account was found in a Swiss bank to which millions, let me emphasize this, millions of dollars of state money have been transferred. The fact that the vice president of the country is connected to this account is, unfortunately, beyond doubt. Here is the document that is being investigated now. The information that it contains leads us to a totally new circle of people, absolutely new, through whom the nation's property is effectively leaking out of the country. You must appreciate that this is a level of corruption that we have never reached before. What allows this circuit to operate is that it has been protected all the while by a network of law enforcement bodies. We are not accusing all law enforcement bodies. We are accusing specific leaders. This is not a criminal charge at this stage. [passage omitted]

[Ilyushenko] Regarding the Seabeco firm, unfortunately it is not just one firm today. There are very many of them. As Andrey Mikhailovich [Makarov] has already said, it so happens that it was this very firm that once had more rights than any other firm in foreign economic activities. But the more democracy we had, and the more rights to conduct foreign economic activities were given away, the more those who headed the firm realized that it was becoming possible to bypass their firm when going abroad. It was then that Seabeco started to subdivide. There came Seabeco Group, (Mirrell Ltd.) and a large number of other firms that tried to embrace the whole field of foreign economic activities. Unfortunately this too was impractical. Then Seabeco started to do what it is doing today. You asked whose firm it was. So far, the only thing I can say is that it is a private firm, from which emerged a number of other private firms, all of them small but with a very large annual turnover in hard currency. All the other questions about the firm I think should be answered after the investigation. I think that the investigation will be conducted by none other than the Moscow procuracy.

As for the account, the document Andrey Mikhailovich has just shown you was certified by a notary in Switzerland, no, I beg your pardon, in Canada. I'm saying this just to make sure that you do not doubt that it is something worth looking into. The account bears the signature of the vice president and of one other person. [passage omitted]

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Churin] Can I ask Makarov to elaborate? You have put forward a very serious accusation against...speaking about the tape containing

Procurator Stepankov's telephone conversation in which he speaks about the preparation for an attempt on your life. You mentioned that it took place at 0600. May I ask you where you could have heard this conversation at 0600? Where did it take place and in what circumstances was it taped? As you understand, you can be accused of having no legal right to record the conversation.

[Makarov] I must say here that it was not me who recorded this conversation and that it took place outside Russia. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent Romashikhin from the INTERFAX agency] Would you please tell us the commission's view of the scale of corruption among top officials? Second, the Seabeco company has been highlighted here, but what about other companies? Do you have evidence of corruption implicating other companies?

[Makarov] I can try to answer this question. We singled out the Seabeco company because the bulk of documents the commission is now working on are linked with Seabeco to a considerable degree. I can add that a full investigation of documents belonging to Seabank, a bank set up by the company, was started at 1100. Also a full investigation of organizations such as Agrokhim and Tsvetmeteksport [Export of Non-Ferrous Metals] has been started. This investigation started at 1100. Moreover, today, when we mention the activities of these companies, when we mention Seabeco's activities, we cannot regard these activities separately from the Revival Foundation. To demonstrate that these organizations are closely linked, I can say that Seabeco's office is housed in the Revival Foundation, on the premises allocated to Revival Foundation following well-known decisions, at 61 Kosygin Street. Incidentally, when we mention the allocations to Revival Foundation, we find an unexpected link between the foundation and the vice president's activities. For instance, I am holding Revival Foundation's decision on the transfer of the building of a day-care-kindergarten at 22 Merzlyakovskiy Lane—we should mention that this day-care- kindergarten is part of the CPSU Central Committee's property that was transferred to the Revival Foundation for charity purposes to improve the social conditions of kids and so on. Subsequently, the Revival Foundation transferred this property to a certain joint venture, "Moskva." True, it was stipulated that the "Moskva" joint venture would fully maintain the day-care-kindergarten. So what is the "Moskva" joint venture doing there? It has set up an office from which it operates. But let us turn this page and see how the vice president is linked with this.

In the following document "Moskva" asks to install government network telephones of telephone exchanges Nos. one and two at this day-care-kindergarten since the vice president and president of the aforementioned company are the Russian vice president's advisers. All these documents are authentic and available but unfortunately, I repeat, these are only small islands of the empire that is called Revival Foundation. We have checked a branch of Revival Foundation. The amounts of money, which were, in fact, stolen—let us call a spade a spade—are simply impressive. One gets the impression that yet another economic empire is at work in the state. All this naturally should be examined by law enforcement bodies and can be checked in full only by investigators. But this is already beyond the commission's scope of work.

[passage omitted]

[Ilyushenko] As for breaches at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, these breaches occurred in export of rare minerals, such as scandium and caesium, and in oil deliveries to India and Bulgaria as we have already mentioned here. There have also been other breaches. By now, all these incidents have been checked, and there are just a few details left to finalize, after which there will be a decision from the Russian president. [passage omitted]

Rutskoy Terms Accusations 'Lies'

LD1908123493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1108 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, 19 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The following statement by the Russian Federation Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has been issued here: "In my appeal to the citizens of Russia I warned about possible provocations against the country's constitutional system. One of them was carried out in the course of the session of the interdepartmental commission in charge of combatting crime and corruption under the chairmanship of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and the subsequent news conference by certain members of this commission. In essence, an attempt has been undertaken to undermine the constitutional status of the highest state officials—the vice president of the Russian Federation and the procurator general of the Russian Federation. Thus, a beginning has been laid for the implementation of the plan of "softening up" mentioned recently by the president.

I absolutely reject the accusations made against me. I state with full responsibility that all the so-called facts concerning my complicity in illegal actions, referred to by the news conference participants, are lies and deliberate falsehoods. As a citizen of Russia I will take steps through the courts to defend my honor and dignity.

I am well aware that the political provocation against the vice president of Russia, undertaken to order, signifies that my actions to combat corruption within the highest echelons of power have tangibly affected the interests of those who would like to continue to plunder and destroy Russia with impunity. I again wish to warn these figures that they are responsible to the people and the country.

[Signed] A. Rutskoy

Parliament, General Prosecutor React to Charges

MK2008093593 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 Aug 93 p 2

[From statements issued by the Parliamentary Press Service and General Prosecutor's Office under the general headline: ""Russian Authorities on Corruption; Commission's Conclusions Step Up the Political Confrontation"]

[Text] **From the Parliamentary Press Service Statement**

- "The case of the vice president's actions can only be heard by the country's top judicial bodies upon production of indisputable materials."

- "Russia's general prosecutor is appointed and relieved of his post by the Supreme Soviet subject to approval by the Congress. It is logical to expect that the attempt by the president and the commission accountable to him to raise with the Supreme Soviet the issue of Valentin Stepankov's dismissal is not an attempt to square political accounts."

- "But the facts attest to the opposite. The hectic activity of the interdepartmental commission to gather damning evidence against the vice president and general prosecutor began after both openly exposed corruption in the sphere of the executive branch."

From the Russian General Prosecutor's Office Statement

- "The General Prosecutor's Office special commission to verify instances of corruption among officials constantly ran up against active opposition on the part of government and presidential entourage officials which appreciably mounted after a number of corruption cases involving the top echelons of power were filed."

- "Seeing the inevitability of exposure, interested persons started to use any dishonest methods to evade responsibility."

- "Even the dismissal of Viktor Barannikov as security minister and Andrey Dunayev as first deputy internal affairs minister failed to stop the investigation."

- "The General Prosecutor's Office intends to follow the spirit and the letter of the law in carrying out to the full its duty—to expose all persons involved in corruption in the top echelons of power."

'Political Nature' of Charges Assessed

MK2008090593 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 Aug 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Balashov report: "Russian Authorities on Corruption; Commission's Conclusions Step Up Political Confrontation"]

[Excerpts] The accusations against Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy and Russian General Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov, issued the other day by members of the Security Council Inter-Departmental Commission on Combating Crime and Corruption, sparked the "victims'" immediate reaction. Statements by the parliament press service and the Russian General Prosecutor's Office questioning the commission's competence and objectivity were circulated already on the evening of 18 August. The vice president stated his intention to take members of the commission to court for unfounded accusations.

Nobody seemed to have doubted that events would take this turn. For example, one of the commission members, Andrey Makarov, in charge of the commission's logistics, stated at the 18 August press conference his full confidence that attempts would be made shortly to compromise the commission itself and its members. Indeed, he was not mistaken. [passage omitted]

It is quite likely in this connection that the war against corruption once again will become a trump card in the political struggle for power. It is appropriate to recall here that this same war on crime featured as one of the main points in the program of the State Committee for the State of Emergency during the August putsch two years ago. No one, however, dealt with the problem seriously. Things used to end in two or three propagandistic arrests or the sacking of mid-level officials, while the system of embezzlement of state funds in bribes continued to operate smoothly.

Yesterday, however, Russian President Boris Yeltsin unequivocally stated in a press conference that from now on, all executives without exception, regardless of their positions or their being part of the team, would be called to account. It is nevertheless too early to draw any conclusions. It is up to the investigative bodies and the court to prove the authenticity of the damning documents gathered by the present commission and the guilt of the suspects. It is precisely because this has not taken place yet that many in the mass media perceive the commission's press conference on 18 August as one of the broadsides in the "artillery preparation" promised by the president.

The political nature of the commission's revelations is also indirectly confirmed by secret admissions of a Russian Security Ministry officer. He told KOMMERSANT-DAILY that Russian Security Minister Viktor Barannikov was dismissed after his visit to the president with thick files of incriminating information against Andrey Makarov and Dmitriy Yakubovskiy. There was also, according to the officer, a third file with damning evidence against First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko which the president did not even look at.

Most probably, the confrontation of political forces that received a fresh impetus in the wake of the announcement of the commission's conclusions will toughen in

the coming days. It is also quite probable that this question will be raised today during a joint session of the Supreme Soviet chambers.

Stepankov Interviewed on 'Fight Against Corruption'

LD2008115093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1445 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Phone-in studio interview with General Prosecutor Valentin Georgiyevich Stepankov by Nina Berdnikova; from the "Parliamentary Hour" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Berdnikova] I would like to introduce Valentin Stepankov, procurator general of the Russian Federation, to our viewers. Valentin Georgiyevich, I suggest that we start our conversation with this serious issue: In your view, how is the fight against corruption being waged in our country. Or is corruption just a pawn in the political struggle?

[Stepankov] I think that the question of the struggle against corruption has always been important for any state and for any system of power. It is the same in our country. We are discussing this problem very energetically. I would like to take our viewers back to last December when reports were delivered at the Seventh Congress by the procurator general, Security Minister Barannikov, and Interior Minister Yerin. Unfortunately, in the political situation which prevailed at the time these reports were overshadowed by the political passions which flared at that congress.

Then, in February, however, a closed conference of heads of law enforcement organs and heads of administration took place in the Kremlin under the chairmanship of the president, at which Aleksandr Vladimirovich Rutskoy delivered a report. Many of the facts which he later spoke about from the parliamentary rostrum had already been heard in the reports presented by the ministers and in his February report; nothing had been done and nothing had changed. It was only then, in the altered political situation, when Aleksandr Vladimirovich spoke in parliament, that this series of events which we have been participatng in began.

In my conversations with investigators—and not only those of the procuracy general—with officials of the Ministries of Security and Internal Affairs and, primarily, with rank and file officials, I have become convinced of how deeply disappointed people are that the serious question of the fight against corruption is, unfortunately, becoming such a pawn in the political struggle, in the present political confrontation. This is the reason for the choice of such methods whereby attempts are made to hush up some facts and not to give any assessments of them; to distort other facts and to raise them up and once again to use them in the political struggle. This is deplored by those officials who sincerly wish to unmask the corrupt and sincerely believe that the state is capable of defending these interests and of supporting them in this fight. Today we do not see this to a large extent.

[Berdnikova] Valentin Georgiyevich, some questions have been sent in, but first of all I would like our viewers to have the opportunity to hear the point of view of independent lawyers about the activity of the interdepartmental commission. The first questions and first telephone calls which we have received are on the subject of the activity of the interdepartmental commission. [passage omitted]

[Stepankov] The interdepartmental commission is a rather broad body set up by the president. It includes the head of government, the security minister, the internal minister, customs committee, Foreign Intelligence Service, three chairmen of the committees of the Supreme Soviet, and the deputy chairman—in other words, this is a large commission. But we have not yet seen the presidential decree which set up yet another body under the umbrella of this commission which is now trying to call itself the commission. I mean the commission presently led by Kalmykov, present minister of justice. When I see the ways this commission is working, I recollect a rather frightening legislative act dating back to December 1934.

That was the time when Kirov was murdered and the All-Russian Central Executive Committee issued a decision saying that proceedings had to be be instituted with immediate effect against their political opponents and those who were opposing the present regime—as the decision stated—and investigations had to be carried out in the shortest possible time. They would then be presented for consideration by special meetings, the so-called troykas [three-man tribunals], the presence of lawyers would not be permitted, no defense would be allowed, and sentences were to be carried out immediately.

They are attempting ...[pauses] there is a serious danger of something similar here, in my view. I say this because, in my view, and they did not conceal this at their news conference, they use the methods of political investigation—during our routine investigations of criminal cases we have obtained evidence that they use methods of political investigation—that bodies which do not observe the relevant rights institute and carry out operational investigative actions. These include watching people, listening to and recording conversations, and violating the individual's constitutional rights.

Therefore, when from the mouths of the members of this commission, who call themselves lawyers but who do not have the relevant education or experience of such work, one hears various assessments—in the first instance that the procuracy as the body for fighting crime has messed up this fight— it is sufficient to look at the Constitution or the law on the Procuracy to see who is waging the fight against crime and what our duties are in this sphere. [passage omitted]

[Berdnikova] I suggest that we move on to replying to questions from Slavkin from Moscow Oblast. He says: We hear that the case of Rutskoy's sensational revelations is being investigated. But no one is getting to the bottom of it. What is happening?

[Stepankov] In the first place, as is known, a special commission was set up on the basis of the report which the vice president made at the parliamentary session. It is still continuing its work on a number of facts. Yes, there are some facts—they make up a very inconsiderable proportion— which were not confirmed—I mean there was no confirmation that a crime had been committed; there may have been abuse of office but that is not our sphere of activity and no assessment is required from us. In the final analysis it is up to the government or other departments to provide these.

A whole range of criminal cases have, however, been instituted on the basis of his report. Proceedings are about to be brought against a number of high-ranking servicemen in the Western Group of Forces. They always hush this up and say that everything was clean there. But we have already arrested several people, including high-ranking officers. Charges have been laid against them and we are at the stage where the cases will be handed over to the court.

Investigations have also been instituted regarding persons whose names are now on everyone's lips—Shumeyko and Poltoranin; and this investigation is continuing. We hear accusations against us today that we still have not brought cases to court, but we are unable today either to press charges or to halt the proceedings with regard to Shumeyko. We have not questioned him once. When our investigator goes to Staraya Ploshchad he is either refused entry or else Shumeyko communicates with him via a secretary; the secretary signs for the writ, and no one responds to this.

Equally, we can watch Poltoranin on television calling in journalists, telling of the excesses of the Procuracy, and recalling 1937-1938 again instead of providing testimony. He has now provided testimony. New evidence has now appeared.

I think that, if discussions with Chernomyrdin to call Shumeyko to order, to respect his Constitution, to respect his laws are not accepted, then the investigative bodies are simply obliged—we do not have any other choice—to undertake the strictest steps to ensure the attendance of both Shumeyko and Poltoranin who are today, and will be questioned as, witnesses. What happens next and their fate in this case will be determined by their testimony in their case.

Therefore, the investigation is continuing in spite of the vast difficulties which we come up against. The investigators are experienced and they recall few instances in their work when people provide such active opposition and when some of the mass media provide help for this, and when a halo is created around one problem which would seem not to exist at all and on which we make unfounded attacks, and other problems turn up to deflect public opinion. But, nonetheless, the Procuracy will continue the investigation in spite of the attempts to oppose it, and we shall undertake the measures which the law provides us with. [passage omitted]

[Berdnikova] I'd like to remind you that our studio guest is Valentin Stepankov, Russian procurator general. Valentin Georgiyevich is answering your questions. Anna Sergeyevna Rykova from Moscow asks: Why are top officials allowed to slander each other?

[Stepankov] When methods of slander and provocation are used in politics, it only demonstrates the low culture of the politicians themselves. This must be on their conscience.

[Berdnikova] Vladimir Ivanovich Yemilnitskiy from Lvov. Did you speak to the president and what about, prior to the campaign against you organized by him and his entourage?

[Stepankov] Yes, I did have meetings with the president. To my enormous regret, and perhaps we are both to blame, we had not had contacts for such a long time. For some reason he was treating the procurator general with more suspicion in many respects. He regards him well nigh as a person who is trying to act against the president. Nevertheless, our last official tete-a-tete meeting left both of us unsatisfied. The president put a number of questions to me and I replied that in line with the law I could not act in that way and we were both unsatisfied in this respect. At the same time I put a question to him. We were already ready and I told the president this—we had been ready to give a legal assessment of the events in Ossetia and Ingushetia. I think this is a very serious matter in interstate and ethnic relations in Russia. I thought it was necessary to discuss it at the Security Council. The matter is being prepared but so far the Security Council has not dealt with it.

In addition, I told the president about the current situation at the procuracy, about the problems we were dealing with. We have quite a few of them and there was some information for the president. As for what the president has been talking about over the last few days and hours, it was not under discussion at our meetings. The meeting took place before he went on leave.

[Berdnikova] Sergey Oblitskiy, Moscow. To what degree is the president's statement on a possibility of early elections of people's deputies legally justified?

[Stepankov] I think all the questions and our present life are being regulated by the Constitution, which has come under so many attacks at present. It is not possible to regulate the life of state, society, and the individual not by law but by certain decisions. Therefore the answer to the question lies in the law itself. At present there is no such possibility based on law or the Constitution. If the Congress or the Supreme Soviet work out and introduce

amendments on early elections, I think it is quite possible to raise this issue and to introduce these amendments to the Constitution about the possibility of holding early elections to parliament and elections for president. As a people's deputy myself, if this question were discussed at a session of the Supreme Soviet or at the Congress, I would vote for it, for us to have the possibility of holding early elections for both branches of power.

[Berdnikova] Another question from Moscow—Viktor Stepanovich Nazarov. What can you say about the lawyer Makarov? In my opinion he is a politically unscrupulous man.

[Stepankov] You know I would not want to be like those politicians you talked about at the beginning, and be slanderous on the basis of this business. So I would refrain from your personal views. I prefer to meet the lawyer openly, in the judicial process because I am the procurator and he is a lawyer. There we will find out who's worth what. But fate has not yet thrown us together on this. [passage omitted: Berdnikova lists many of the towns from which listeners have telephoned with questions]

[Berdnikova] A question from Suzdal, unfortunately there is no name. Are the corrupt not constantly on the attack because the Procuracy bodies are either slow or on the defensive?

[Stepankov] You understand, the impression is created that we are on the defensive or are slow. But we cannot use the same methods used by people who do not have professional powers or the constitutional powers which even the procuracies of rural areas have when attempting to resolve the difficult issue of the struggle against corruption. Today we have enough scripts of telephone conversations which were obtained legally. They, in accordance with the law on cases under investigation, were obtained with the sanction of the Procuracy. But if we act like others and advertise this in newspapers then we would begin to violate human rights. I think that such actions do not suit us. We will conduct the fight against corruption, but only with clean hands.

[Berdnikova] Let's answer one more question before our news bulletin. After August 1991, Prostikov from Irkutsk asks, the political map changed. You turned out to be an opponent of those who won on the barricades, in quotation marks, who today want major changes.

[Stepankov] I have never repented that in August 1991 I took up the position I did. I believe that today I am still following the line which I chose then—against anticonstitutional activities and against violent methods of changing the authorities, the existing state system, and the existing Constitution. If it happens again, my duty is—I am obliged—to act only on the basis of the law. I think that the vast majority of Procuracy workers think the same. [passage omitted]

[Berdnikova] Valentin Georgeyevich continues to answers viewers' questions. Mr. Stepankov, Ivanenko from the town of Tolyatti says: It turns out that all those who call themselves democrats are preparing a 1937 for us.

[Stepankov] I think that the country has sufficient strength and capabilities so as to not allow the repetition of the repressions which took place here. I am another generation but fate determined things so that I know about those years and events, and not through hearsay. When I worked as the procurator in Khabarovsk Kray I was forced to work for a very long time and an awful lot on questions of rehabilitating the victims of the political represssions. So inside of me something formed to make me oppose with all my strength possible bloody reprisals against people with different views. My hand will never be raised against someone who thinks differently, and I will also object categorically to any repression of him if it happens. Therefore those who call for any kind of repressions, I think that they do not have the right to call themselves democrats in such a situation.

[Berdnikova] Mariya Ivanovna Ivanova, an engineer from Moscow, asks whether you can explain why Churbanov [Brezhnev's son-in-law] was released early from prison.

[Stepankov] I think that the reason for this should be in the presidential decree, because that person was pardoned by the president. Amnesties are universal, whereas a decision on an individual pardon is taken by the president on materials presented by the pardoning commission which exists in the presidential administration. No doubt the motive is contained in these documents. At the same time it is possible to say that the others involved in that case were released a long time ago. But how this decision was made, who initiated it, and why, it's difficult for me to judge.

[Berdnikova] Ivan Seredov, manager of the Komtur firm: Have criminal proceedings been begun against Shumeyko and Poltoranin, and if they have, why have they not been removed from their posts?

[Stepankov] The cases are being investigated. As regards Poltoranin investigations are going on into events connected to the handing over of property rights to a building, a fairly large, impressive, expensive building, in Berlin. The investigation has established that Poltoranin put his signature to documents although he did not have the powers to make such decisions. That is half a corpus delicti. The other half will consist of whether Russia loses this property; if it does lose it then there will be a considerable loss and then he will be fully responsible on a criminal basis. Therefore the investigation is ongoing, the necessary documents have been received, and we are working on this investigation. We are not rushing to make any preliminary conclusions until we get to the stage of laying charges if the necessary proofs are gathered.

As regards Shumeyko, a large case is being investigated when Shumeyko, at first as deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet and then first deputy prime minister, made and adopted decisions, organizational decisions as a result of which major sums, expensive amounts of property were taken from the state. Today this is being evaluated.

Therefore, in accordance with the law any official can only be removed after charges are laid. Once again we are not going to circumvent this law no matter how much anyone would like us to.

[Berdnikova] Thank you. Pensioner Burmistrova asks: Mr. Stepankov, what is the fate of the case concerning the State Committee for the State of Emergency? How could you, an experienced lawyer, write and publish your version of the investigation?

[Stepankov] The fate of the case is in the hands of the court. Since December last year the case has been there. I think soon we will mark some anniversaries connected with the hearing of this case by the court.

As for the book and its publication, as a lawyer, I have fulfilled my task. Together with the investigators we completed the investigation of a criminal case, charged the defendants, and, having completed the investigation, passed the case to the accused and their lawyers for familiarization. [passage omitted]

[Berdnikova] Boris Alekseyevich Osipov, Naryan-Mar: Are you being made short work of because you have changed your views on the president's activity?

[Stepankov] I have always thought that Russia has a president. The president acts in accordance with the Constitution, proceeding from the powers of the president, the government, and representative power. As long as these powers are acting within this framework, I will try to vindicate their interests, defending the president and the government as well as the Supreme Soviet. If there is a deviation, I am obliged to express my position and the population, the people of Russia, know that this is exactly what I have been doing in extreme situations. On the other hand, I think politicians should seek ways out of the conflict situation we have found ourselves in.

[Berdnikova] Vasiliy Ivanovich Kuznetsov asks: Why was Barannikov removed?

[Stepankov] I think parliamentary television should invite Barannikov and let him answer these questions in more detail, because there is a range of incidents and events there in which he took part and which only he can interpret. I think that the Security Ministry has been dealt a considerable blow, in terms of organization, structure, and the management of this large body, by Barannikov's leaving. Not many people know that there are only 25,000 people in Procuracy bodies in the whole of Russia. The Security Ministry is several times larger. As a result, he had very great and serious responsibilities. The reason? I think it would be better to ask him this question, because those who were party to his dismissal have still not given a clear and concise answer either.

[Berdnikova] Do you have the right to remove Shumeyko from his post and place him under guard pending clarification of the circumstances of this affair?

[Stepankov] The affair is being investigated by the criminal department. If the procurator, if the investigator has grounds for it, and he thinks that the suspected person, or if he is to be accused, the accused, should be restrained, then a decision to this effect can be made on request by the investigator, sanctioned by the procurator. But if the instances when Shumeyko was a deputy and had deputy immunity come up, then the Procuracy can only take steps of this kind with the agreement of the Supreme Soviet. If it is a matter of events that took place when he did not have deputy immunity then these actions can be taken at the decision of the investigator, sanctioned by the procurator, followed by court proceedings.

[Berdnikova] So, from Moscow, Gavrilov: Were you aware of the activities of the Seabeco firm?

[Stepankov] This is a very major and wide-ranging question. The Seabeco firm appeared in our field of vision a long time ago, I mean already over a year ago, at the time when we were conducting investigations connected with the financing of the CPSU and with money disappearing abroad. Then we vigorously examined this firm, looked at documents, studied documents. Today these questions also remain, but although Justice Minister Kalmykov states at a news conference that this is a huge monster existing within our Russia, to date not a single document on this matter has been handed over to the procuracy bodies. If these documents are made available, I think we shall make the decisions that the law obliges us to make. That is why it was ludicrous to hear some reproaches addressed to the Procuracy to the effect that the procurator general is shielding Rutskoy and the Vozrozhdeniye firm even though not a single document about possible abuses requiring the intervention of the Procuracy has reached us from that commission. This is a fact.

[Berdnikova] Valentin Georgiyevich, there are very many—unfortunately, we are running out of time—there are very many questions which we simply won't have time to answer. But I would like to read out the following: We support such an honest lawyer and bold person like Stepankov, we support Rutskoy and Khasbulatov. I support your stance. How can we, ordinary people, help you?

This is perhaps the last question which you will have time to answer.

[Stepankov] I think that the fact that such a question was asked already contains the support which is needed, and, in the first place, probably, not needed by me because I have been bearing my cross for two and a half years even though it feels more like five or six years. I think that

these words I would like to address more to our rank-and-file investigators, to our rank-and-file procurators of rayons, towns,and oblasts. For them the fact that the system of procuracy bodies is working and enjoys the population's support would be a new argument showing that we are on the right path.

[Berdnikova] Thank you, Valentin Georgiyevich; I hope that you will become if not a regular then a frequent guest of our studio. We bid you farewell.

Defies Resignation Calls

PM1908162193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed telephone interview with General Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov carried under the general heading "Bomb From President's Arsenal": "Call to Valentin Stepankov Yesterday"]

[Text] [KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Valentin Georgevich, can you comment on the statements made at the press conference [held yesterday by Justice Minister Yuriy Kalmykov and Andrey Makarov, chief of the Interdepartmental Commission Administration, leveling corruption charges at Vice President Rutskoy and the general prosecutor] and above all the death threat against the lawyer, Makarov.

[Stepankov] Let me start by saying that we are on unequal terms. The commission has no procedural powers and can consequently handle particular documents or testimony without a moment's thought.

As far as specific discussions with Yakubovskiy are concerned, yes, they did take place, and there were several of them. It is difficult for me to refute anything until I hear what people have in mind. One discussion involved Makarov; Yakubovskiy referred to him as a sick man, I advised him to get treatment in that case. An actual trade-off was, however, the topic of our conversation: You stop your activity in the Shumeyko case, the opposite side stops its activity in respect of other people.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Regarding cooperation between Yakubovskiy and the prosecutor's office: A pass was produced.

[Stepankov] A xerox, mark you. We have the pass. Yakubovskiy voluntarily handed it over when we learned somewhat more about him than we had known previously. He was one adviser among many. The pass allowed him at least to enter the prosecutor's office, bringing highly important documents. He had similar passes from the Internal Affairs Ministry and the government. To be frank, he was a nonstaff informant, and at the start of the nineties was of interest as an expert on certain questions concerning the "party's gold."

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Your resignation was demanded during the press conference.

[Stepankov] My resignation, it has to be acknowledged, would suit lots of people today. There are forces which do not forgive me for the State Committee for the State of Emergency case and there are forces which which do not forgive me for my speeches at the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies or my speech on television as one of "the four"... But I still have things to do, and I am not afraid. I will not resign voluntarily.

Prosecutor's Office Statement on Corruption Probe

PM2008084193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "The General Prosecutor's Office Will Do Its Duty"]

[Text] A General Prosecutor's Office statement says: "For the entire duration that the General Prosecutor's Office special commission to check instances of corruption by officials has been working it has constantly encountered active resistance from individual officials from the government and the president's entourage, resistance which has intensified considerably since a number of criminal proceedings were instituted for corruption on the top echelons of the executive branch.

"Seeing that exposure was inevitable, interested persons started using any dishonest methods with a view to evading responsibility. Prosecutor's Office investigators have acquired irrefutable proof testifying that these persons formulated a detailed plan to paralyze the investigation, a plan which is currently being actively implemented. One of its elements involves discrediting law-enforcement agency leaders who take a scrupulous attitude to the investigation of these cases.

"As is known, the minister of security and the first deputy minister of internal affairs were removed from their posts. Seeing this, some other leaders of the Security Ministry and the MVD and subdivisions of these ministries started to shirk the fulfillment of instructions from the investigating team to implement essential operational detection measures in the said cases.

"But even this failed to halt the investigation. Prosecutor's Office investigators stepped up their work, which—as is now graphically clear—has prompted interested persons to opt for extreme steps. An attempt is being made to get the General Prosecutor's Office taken off the investigation of the said crimes. Lies, slander, and misrepresentation of the facts have been used.

"In these conditions the General Prosecutor's Office states that it can see just one task which will be unswervingly pursued—exposing all officials involved in corruption and doing everything to see that the guilty are brought to justice, while strictly observing the spirit and letter of the law and refusing to succumb to provocative actions."

Deputy Economics Minister Fired Amid Corruption Accusations

MK2008070193 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 20 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Deputy Minister Fired"]

[Text] On Tuesday, Russian Deputy Economics Minister Yuriy Olkhovikov was dismissed from his post by order of First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko.

The order was signed even prior to the press conference convened on Wednesday by the interdepartmental commission for the fight against crime and corruption, at which Yuriy Olkhovikov, who dealt with foreign economic matters at the Economics Ministry, was accused of violating laws on quotas and licenses; as a result of these violations, oil and other strategic resources destined for India and Bulgaria went to other countries, and the currency earned from the sales found its way into foreign bank accounts. The dismissal order says that these violations have done significant damage to Russia's economic interests.

Yesterday, Yuriy Olkhovikov spent the whole day at the Russian government. According to reports that MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS has received from well-informed sources, no criminal charges have been brought against the former minister.

Public Prosecutor Said Involved in 'Assassination' Plan

LD1908180093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1359 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow August 19 TASS—ITAR-TASS has obtained a tape recording of the conversation between Russian Public Prosecutor Valentin Stepankov and a former KGB official Dmitriy Yakubovskiy about a plan of assassination of top Russian lawyer Andrey Makarov.

Makarov is the newly appointed head of the department of the inter-departmental Commission for Combating Crime and Corruption.

Between June and September 1992 Yakubovskiy worked as an adviser to the Russian Government. Then he married a Canadian, left his job and has been living abroad since September 1992. Yakubovskiy claimed, however, that he had "repeatedly received proposals from the Interior Ministry Department for Combating Organised Crime to provide documents discrediting the country's leaders with whom he had been connected by his job," according to his letter to Stepankov.

In an interview with television sleuth Andrey Karaulov, Stepankov confirmed that he had received from the Interior Ministry and the Security Ministry useful information for the public prosecutor's office. The information had been supplied by Yakubovskiy. This partially accounts for his appointment as Stepankov's adviser. Additionally, Yakubovskiy had been issued a respective certificate confirming his position which is valid till December 31, 1993.

Yakubovskiy regularly called Stepankov from Canada. In his telephone conversations, which he recorded on tape, he often complained about nostalgia for Russia and his desire to return home. In reply, Stepankov explained that the situation in Russia was such that it was better for Yakubovskiy to stay abroad. Former Security Minister Viktor Barannikov was also against Yakubovskiy's return to Russia.

However Stepankov had to call Yakubovskiy to Moscow in June 1993 to investigate the facts of corruption in the upper echelons of power in Russia. To this end, a special "plan of activities to ensure the security of D. Yakubovskiy during his stay in Moscow" was worked out. The plan was approved by the Moscow police chief Major-General Pankratov.

The plan envisaged security measures which were normally provided only to high-ranking officials. They included "24-hour security service at the place of residence," "use of security men, two cars, hand and submachine guns, a Makarov pistol and means of individual protection," "an escort car" and "allocation of special transportation routes." Point eight of the plan is of special interest. It banned security men guarding Yakubovskiy to contact any officials and bodies of power without permission from the police chief and a sanction of the public prosecutor.

"The document shows that Yakubovskiy is being cherished by the public prosecutor as the apple of his eye," Makarov said. He then produced a recording of another conversation between Stepankov and Yakubovskiy, in which Stepankov warned his partner against attempts to blackmail him through the mass media. Some time after that, an attempt on Yakubovskiy's life was made in Toronto.

His telephone conversation dated July 22 has become a sensation not only in Russia but in the whole world. The recording has been examined by the expert and criminal centre of the Russian Interior Ministry and the scientific and research institute of forensic medicine of the Russian Ministry of Justice which confirmed that the voices belonged to Yakubovskiy and Stepankov.

The following is the excerpts from the conversation:

"Yakubovskiy: What do you think, should I try to approach the Russian borders?

Stepankov: We have already had a talk on this issue and agreed that everything would depend on the confrontation of forces and who will get whom under and in what way.

Yakubovskiy: You mean Makarov?

Stepankov: All of them...

Yakubovskiy: Mind you that Makarov is now very active in Zurich, if I am not mistaken, and he has been seen in Austria too. Perhaps we should get rid of this irritant?

Stepankov: I don't know what depends on whom?

Yakubovskiy: But did you see Makarov yourself? He is a very sick and weak person.

Stepankov: Why doesn't he see the doctor then?

Yakubovskiy: How should I know?

Stepankov: If you say so and you have some possibilities, then think about it.

Yakubovskiy: I will, but will the motherland appreciate this?

Stepankov: I should think so.

(connection failure. Yakubovskiy calls back.)

Yakubovskiy: Is this a bath-house?

Stepankov: I am listening.

Yakubovskiy: You see (delete). [as received] Look here... If the motherland appreciates this, I will do what I can. We need to reach agreement and find common ways. The protection of people's health is our primary task.

Could you explain all this to comrades... With nice haircuts, shall I say? (reference to Rutskoy—TASS) He (Makarov—TASS) will return... With a rather big baggage. ... If they wait until he returns and then begin making decisions, you should understand that he who waits will get it eventually.

Stepankov: I can't penetrate their minds, their plans and calculations, but there is no doubt that it is a destabilising factor...

Yakubovskiy: ...But any obligation means bilateral implementation of obligations.

Stepankov: Well, I guess you are right. I think you are. See?..."

The conversation continued in the same way, abounding in obscene words and reminding one of a conversation between two accomplices who understand each other without even speaking in full sentences. Yakubovskiy is obviously provoking Stepankov, seeking to obtain carte blanche to remove Makarov. It is clear that Yakubovskiy needed materials discrediting the general prosecutor in order to make him resign which would make his return home possible. But what made Stepankov continue this conversation? Why didn't he protest against Yakubovskiy's tone and proposals? Why didn't he dissociate himself from the base hints?

Under the Russian law a tape recording cannot be considered a piece of evidence.

Subscriber Access to 'Elite' Phone Network Cut

PM2008131993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Sergey Taranov report: "Only State Elite Retain Elite Telephones"]

[Text] The special government communications telephones which work on the so-called "ATS-1" system fell silent for many influential officials and organizations 18 August. Following a directive from the Russian President's Main Administration for Security, there has been a sharp reduction in the subscribers to this most privileged of telephone networks.

For people who have never seen these "special phones" we will explain: Special government communications have existed from the times of the first communist rulers and can be divided into three types—ATS-1, which links the top officials in the state (no lower than first deputy minister or state committee posts); ATS-2, which is mainly used by middle-ranking Moscow leaders (presidential officials, the Council of Ministers apparatus, "ordinary" deputy ministers and main administration chiefs, directors of major enterprises, and so forth); and, finally, the communications system called "VCh," which connects leaders in the capital with their provincial colleagues and the leaders of the USSR republics.

Until the August 1991 putsch special communications was a KGB subunit. It then emerged from under the wing of the special organs but remained a militarized organization. Today, alongside the Main Administration for Government Communications, there is also a presidential communications subunit, which runs the ATS-1.

In the past two years the number of ATS-1 and ATS-2 subscribers has grown exorbitantly. Supertelephones have been issued to people who have no connection with top state officials—particularly major commercial organizations, various foundations (including the Gorbachev Foundation and the notorious "Revival" Foundation), central newspaper editorial offices (including IZVESTIYA, which had always had ATS-1 and -2 by dint of its former official status), and others. These will no longer have the ATS-1 as of 18 August.

IZVESTIYA's correspondent was told at the president's Main Administration for Security that there was nothing extraordinary about cutting off outside clients' special communications. There had been a "streamlining of the subscriber network in strict accordance with the guideline documents followed by the president's administration." This streamlining will continue and will also affect ATS-2 users.

Just why these restrictions in communications are occurring now, on the eve of a stormy September, is another matter. According to one theory, the cutting off of the ATS-1 system is part of the overall offensive by presidential forces against the opposition and "corrupt officials." The ATS-1 was "cut" first at the "Revival"

Foundation and from people close to Vice President Rutskoy. As for commercial structures, the elimination of their elite communications means that they will have less of an opportunity to influence top state officials.

We can expect the entire system by which special telephones are issued to be reviewed in the very near future. Most probably the principle of the commercial use of government communications which was recognized two years ago will be abolished, and the system will essentially revert to the position prior to the KGB reorganization following the August putsch.

This measure is probably necessary and correct. But we would like to note that, in losing ATS-1 (and perhaps ATS-2 as well), central newspaper editorial offices, which have become joint-stock companies, could also lose major sources of information. Unfortunately, the way things stand, most of our top state officials can only be contacted via special communications—when they answer the telephone themselves rather than designating this function to technical secretaries and assistants who use every means in their power to prevent the press from contacting their "exceptionally busy" bosses.

'Democratic Russia' Leader Calls For Early Elections

LD1908171393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1612 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow August 19 TASS—A Russian parliamentary faction leader has called for early elections of both the parliament and the president.

Lev Ponomarev, a coordinator of the Russian parliamentary faction Democratic Russia, believes this will be "beneficial for Boris Yeltsin whose positions will be strengthened."

If elections take place, "We will support Boris Yeltsin and I am sure he will win," Ponomarev said. He presented a plan of an election campaign, "Elections-93," at a meeting of the parliamentary coalition of reform in Moscow on Thursday.

Under the plan, parliamentary elections should be held not later than November-December, while presidential elections in March-April 1994. The Constitutional Assembly should hold a plenary meeting in August-September to work out a temporary constitutional act which would divide the powers of the two-chamber parliament, the president and the government. The act should also name the date of early parliamentary and presidential elections. Additionally, the meeting will have to work out a law on elections, one of the coalition leaders said.

Moscow Demonstrators Demand Changes in Reform Course

LD1908165393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1522 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Aug—Several thousand people met today on the Krasnopresnenskaya embankment outside the Russian House of Soviets to demand changes in the present course of reforms. The rally organized by the "Working Moscow" movement and several other organizations was timed for the second anniversary of the August events [August 1991 coup attempt]. Supporters of communist theory spoke against early parliamentary elections, proposing instead "to confirm in the constitution the right of deputies to continuity in their powers." Then the demonstrators moved towards Lubyanka Square, where they will hold another rally.

KGB's Kalugin on August Coup, Armed Forces

MK1908111193 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 1

[Interview with retired KGB Major General Oleg Kalugin, former USSR people's deputy and current adviser to the Information Service Agency, by POSTFACTUM news agency, especially for MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA; place and date not given; under the general headline: "Russia From August to August; Two Years Later"]

[Excerpts] [POSTFACTUM] Oleg Danilovich, how do you assess the events of August 1991, looking back at them from today?

[Kalugin] I think I will express the opinion of the majority of our citizens, who perceived the August 1991 events as a new page in Russian history. This is what they believed at that time; this is what we hoped for and what we pinned our expectations on. Two years later, the hopes have not come true, many of them have been dashed; that is, we have lived through these two years without reaching a breakthrough in the country's economic and social life that would pave a real path for change in the country. In fact, now we are experiencing a lack of power, not dual power. I think that when they say "dual power" this is not quite precise; that is, there are two branches of power that compete with each other, but as a result, a power vacuum has emerged, and this is a dreadful thing fraught with unpredictable consequences. Economically, we have not achieved what we had expected. I should tell you, however, that the illusions, which have for the most part been dissipated, do not concern our society's economic restructuring—because there is no breaking a totalitarian economy within two years or the psychology of the people who grew up and were brought up in this economy. This is why I think that part of our population basically understands the current difficulties and is even ready to live with them. As a matter of fact, the April referendum proved just this.

Despite the enormous breakdown of our economic mechanism, despite the hardships that the people have experienced, they still realize that all this is temporary and that we are on the right path, but we have not sufficiently calculated this path yet.

[POSTFACTUM] This concerns the economy. What is at issue is a different thing—power.

[Kalugin] Our current authorities, which were initially considered different from the former ones, have little changed their appearances, their conduct, or their essence. Yes, we do not have a party that wants to be "the guiding and leading force," nor do we have police repression—at least many people do not sense it—but the very essence of these authorities is as far from the people as it was before 1991. First, I have believed, for instance, that the new authorities should be close to the people and that they should break the old mechanism of government—destroy the enormous bureaucratic apparatus that has caught the whole country in its tentacles. It seems to me, however, that even the old Union did not have a bureaucracy on the scale that we now have in Russia. It is even worse because the old bureaucracy, however callous and unwieldy it might have been, had a certain management schooling, and the former authorities knew what fear was like; they had certain leverage and possibilities for pressure. The current authorities do not have these checks, nor do they have management experience. They are beginning to assimilate, as if from scratch, new ideas that have already become trivial. In effect, as many people think, it is the second echelon of the old nomenklatura that has come to power, maybe even the third, which is presently trying to reach the top level, and its efforts are doing so much harm in terms of the population accepting the new regime psychologically. [passage omitted]

In August 1991, people believed: This was a real revolution. I think they made a mistake. The revolution has not occurred so far. As a matter of fact, President Yeltsin himself said that he was against revolution, and I gather that he is making a big mistake here. A revolution is, first of all, a drastic change, an overhaul that is not bound to be accompanied by violence—say, the change in ownership relations. This is an actual revolution if we replace socialist ownership with private ownership. This is in effect a revolutionary process, but some call it a counterrevolution.

[POSTFACTUM] What do you remember particularly vividly from the August days?

[Kalugin] I remember sincere enthusiasm, the readiness of huge masses of people for self-sacrifice, including those who were standing around the White House and were ready to die for the new. [passage omitted] This was sincere enthusiasm. I am afraid there will not be anything like that this year. Alas, there will definitely be nothing like that.

[POSTFACTUM] Could anything similar be repeated at present? Please explain why?

[Kalugin] I think it could. Maybe because the feeling of disenchantment has turned into apathy by a significant part of the population, who will simply not take to the streets if anything happens. They will not stand up to defend the White House. It is primarily not even the aversion to the procrastination in reform that is at issue—this is understandable—but the "squabbles" between the authorities, "squabbles" between the legislative and executive branches of power, and "squabbles" inside the executive branch. We all see that there is no peace inside the Yeltsin administration. Ministers and other chiefs are in a state of constant struggle against each other; plus there is an outside factor—the opposition, the so-called reds and browns. As a matter of fact, I believe that there is a degree of exaggeration to this. Perhaps extremists do exist—I am sure they do—but the most dreadful thing now is the people's cynicism and apathy to what may occur. Yes, it may, I am afraid, it may happen.

[POSTFACTUM] From which side?

[Kalugin] This may happen from the side of those who are presently heading our parliament, in the first instance. Furthermore, this coup may be of a quasi-constitutional nature; that is, it will have all the trappings of legality, including, say, impeachment of the president or the government's resignation; in essence it will be a coup, but it will have legitimate elements. What is important in this situation is how clear and unequivocal a stance the power structure will take because any coup needs a mechanism. This mechanism is presently out of tune. You know there is disarray in the security agencies following Barannikov's departure, and the status of the agencies as such is completely muddled because they have not yet found their place in the new system of values that is actually just taking shape. They have not established themselves; they are looking for their place, and many still do not know what is to be done. This is also true for the Defense Ministry, maybe the most important single power structure, because as for the army, unfortunately, its potential and strength have been wasted completely. The mood of humiliation and destitution is plainly evident. At present, the armed forces, too, are bewildered and concerned about their future. The thing is that the withdrawal of our units from Europe and former Union countries is imposing huge costs on the life of ordinary officers, to say nothing about living conditions in the Army of those in the officers' corps. Despite measures taken by President Yeltsin to improve the quality of life, negative attitudes are still very strong in the officers' corps, and when the political crisis reaches its climax, those with whom the Army will side will probably be the ones to win. Alas, currently, the armed forces are probably the chief support of any authority, and they will either be retained by Yeltsin and his team or will go over to others. They will do so not by saber-rattling or driving tanks along Moscow's streets, but by giving their moral support to one of the sides, and their declaration of support will be the intangible but very weighty factor that can tip the balance in favor of either side.

[POSTFACTUM] You have courageously told us what has come out of August 1991, but I cannot help but recall Plekhanov's words: "We should not have taken up arms."

[Kalugin] We should! We should continue to break it up further, but the breaking should be more accurate, more competent, and more professional. Unfortunately, what we are doing now regarding the breakup sometimes looks odd, has a tinge of the "hillbilly approach," and suffers a lack of culture of management and public relations and the inability to speak a common language with our own people. This is really frightening because we do not have popular tribunes among the powers that be who could rally the masses. Alas, a lot depended on Boris Nikolayevich's charisma, but it has been running out lately.

[POSTFACTUM] Do you think that Nikolay Travkin was right when he said in public that Yeltsin has exhausted himself?

[Kalugin] Let us not dot all the i's, but I am afraid that Travkin was right. I think he is just completing his term. Who will be next, however, is a matter of guesswork. I personally favor a new generation, the "unwhipped" generation of those who are not tied by this old, stifling pattern of relationships, a mentality in which fear of the authorities and of superiors has taken deep root. In this regard, I like the young people. Yavlinskiy, for instance. These people must come to power, and the old generation must make way and help them embark on the path of state affairs. This is what I believe.

Yakovlev on Direction of Reforms, Need for Elections

LD1908195393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1621 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nelliy Grigoryan]

[Text] Moscow August 19 TASS—The vector of the country's development since August 1991 is correct, Russian politician Aleksandr Yakovlev said. Speaking at a new conference in Yaroslavl on Thursday, Yakovlev said that the pace of reform, economic liberation, democratic processes and human freedom make the changes irreversible. He believes there can be no return to totalitarianism, except as a farce.

Speaking about the conflict between the legislative and executive branches of power in Russia, Yakovlev stressed that the well of compromises is empty, adding that people can no longer tolerate endless political fighting. There is only one way out: reelection of bodies of power. As for the Constitution, this crisis cannot be solved by lawful means. The situation could be eased by a temporary constitutional act which would divide the power between the parliament, the president and the government. A new constitution could be adopted by a constituent assembly when the situation stabilises, Yakovlev said.

Economic Issues

Central Bank Official Outlines Policy

AU2008115893 Hamburg DIE WOCHE in German 19 Aug 93 p 12

[Interview with Aleksandr A. Khandruyev, vice president of the Russian Central Bank, by Joerg Eigendorf; place and date not given: "The People Are Patient"]

[Text] [Eigendorf] Three weeks ago you announced a monetary reform all on your own, which agitated the Russian people. Finance Minister Boris Fedorov did not know anything about it, and President Boris Yeltsin reportedly was insufficiently informed. Is Russia governed by the Central Bank?

[Khandruyev] The Central Bank is not engaged in politics, even though this impression might certainly arise occasionally. This is due to the fact that, unlike many ministries and institutions, the Central Bank is pursuing a clear line. In May, in an agreement with the Central Bank, the government welcomed the fact that the other republics in the ruble zone wanted to introduce their own currencies. We just acted more quickly than the others. Now we have a Russian currency and no longer a Soviet one. This was our goal.

[Eigendorf] And for that you had the people line up in front of bank counters?

[Khandruyev] The fact that the citizens lined up was due to the Russian mentality. There was no real monetary reform. We did not put any money into circulation. But tell me of one person whom we deprived of money. So far, only about 10 percent of the people have exchanged their old money.

[Eigendorf] The power of the Central Bank goes so far that it is ignoring laws passed by Parliament. Only a few weeks ago the Supreme Soviet decided that foreign banks must no longer operate freely. Nevertheless, you are still handing out general licenses.

[Khandruyev] The Central Bank has always been blamed for being against reforms. But the example of the licensing of foreign banks shows that we are very progressive. We do not want German, French, or U.S. banks in Russia being permitted only to deal with foreigners, as Parliament decided recently. We will try to convince the deputies to retract this decision.

[Eigendorf] But you just said that you are not engaged in politics?

[Khandruyev] This is not politics, this is professional business. We think that foreign banks would be beneficial to our banking system.

[Eigendorf] The biggest obstacle to economic reforms in Russia is the high inflation. No one wants to invest where there is inflation at almost 20 percent per month.

In this decisive question there are also quarrels between the Finance Ministry and the Central Bank.

[Khandruyev] I would put it as follows: The government's attitude is similar to the orthodox attitude of the IMF, while the Central Bank is behaving like the West German Government of the postwar period. We do not think at all that one can solve Russia's economic problems in the long run through high inflation. We are for a tough monetary and financial policy. But if we achieve monetary stability through mass unemployment and increased poverty, this will cause more damage than high inflation.

[Eigendorf] Thus, you will continue to grant loans of quadrillions of rubles to ailing state companies and thus push inflation up?

[Khandruyev] It is a myth that the Central Bank decides who gets which loans. We grant 85 percent of the loans on the orders of the government and with the approval of Parliament.

[Eigendorf] But you advocate the granting of loans?

[Khandruyev] There is no other choice than to support the state companies on their path to market economy. If we give a company the opportunity to adapt itself over—let us say—five years, it has a chance to survive. If, on the other hand, we permit the armament companies to go bankrupt, this will lead to enormous social unrest, strikes, and unemployment. This can be even more expensive. Financial policy is not only a collection of principles and dogmas that can be found in a textbook. All attempts to combat inflation in Russia by classical means will make production fall even further.

[Eigendorf] How do you want to manage the tight-rope walk between an economically useful and a politically justifiable course? If you turn off the money tap, there will be mass unemployment, but if you do not, high inflation will hurt the market economy.

[Khandruyev] Whether we want it or not: For a certain time we will be forced to live with high, but controllable, inflation. It is quite clear that loans feed the process of inflation. However, there are also factors that are not located in the sphere of the Central Bank. One example: Most recently the prices for gas, electricity, and coal were raised. Thus, costs are rising for the companies. The farmers now say: "If we do not get any loans, we will not deliver any bread. We will not harvest if it does not pay us to do so." If we do not grant loans, the price of bread will go up. And if the price of bread goes up, so does the price of milk. And then pensions and working wages will be raised. Thus, the spiral of prices starts moving again.

[Eigendorf] How do you intend to achieve the goal of lowering inflation to 10 percent per month by the end of the year?

[Khandruyev] We have raised the prime rate from 80 percent in April to 170 percent. These are the first steps. However, as long as the state, entrepreneurs, and trade unions do not sit down at a table to talk, we will not achieve anything.

[Eigendorf] Thus, this year you will once again not be able to fulfill the conditions of the IMF to get inflation below 10 percent per month?

[Khandruyev] We will be satisfied if we have 12, 13, or 14 percent in December.

[Eigendorf] How many sacrifices can you still ask the Russian population to accept?

[Khandruyev] I am a Russian and I know that the people are very patient. Still, much more is really impossible. However, I do not believe that a civil war will break out. The worst thing that could happen is the crumbling of society and mass emigration.

Military Issues

Number of Generals, Admirals Estimated at Over 2,000

PM2008093193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Aug 93 First Edition p 9

[Gennadiy Zubatov article in reply to reader's letter: "How Many Generals Are There In Russia?"—first paragraph is reader's letter]

[Text] "However hard I look, I just cannot find any accurate figures on the number of generals in the Russian Armed Forces. It is easier to work out the number in any Western country. But I recently heard that the number of generals in the Army increased by 500 in the first five months of this year alone. Is this true? [Signed] Yu. Vedernikov, Moscow."

When we put this question to cadre organs at the Defense Ministry we too realized that the number of generals and admirals in the Russian Armed Forces is a big secret. Nonetheless, we have managed to establish from various sources that there were around 2,240 generals and admirals in the USSR Armed Forces, and there are around 2,100 in the current Russian Armed Forces, despite troop cuts.

Even these figures may not be entirely accurate. We would be happy for the Defense Ministry to put us right.

Armed Forces' Survival Seen Threatened

PM1908135993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 1

[Yuriy Gladkevich report: "Today It Is Not a Question of Social Protection But of the Survival of the Armed Forces. That Idea Was Voiced Yesterday at a Russian Defense Ministry Press Conference by Russian Deputy Defense Minister Colonel General Valeriy Mironov"]

[Text] Never has the question of social protection for the military been as acute as it is today. What I have said can easily be considered an axiom since it is even recognized by those people whom it is hard to suspect of sympathizing with the military. The main reason, as Col. Gen. Valeriy Mironov said, is that Russia began organizing its own defense and armed forces amid a rapidly growing systemic crisis affecting virtually all aspects of public life. What is more, with the breakup of the Soviet Union and its unified defense system, Russia's army felt the full impact of the consequences of this process. Lacking a clearly defined status in the former union republics, Russian troops have to varying degrees become embroiled in the interethnic conflicts that broke out in a number of regions of the former Union. Troop withdrawals from further afield—the Western, Southern, Central, and Northern Groups of Forces, and Mongolia—virtually became a wholesale process: Over 0.5 million servicemen have been withdrawn from those foreign countries in the period 1989 through 1 August this year. A drastic reduction in Russia's armed forces has begun—last year alone they declined by over 200,000 men, and by 1995, in accordance with the Law on Defense, we should have an army and navy numbering 1.5 million—that is, no more than 1 percent of the Russian population. All these processes are taking place amid poor legal support for military organizational development, as well as ever-increasing inflation, price hikes, and the stratification of society in terms of income levels.

In the opinion of Col. Gen. Valeriy Mironov, the adoption early this year of a package of military laws had a favorable impact on the state of affairs within the armed forces and the mood of the officer corps and reinforced the military's idea that they would not be deprived of the state's concern and care. However, it has turned out that the adopted laws lack a reliable and effective mechanism for their implementation and have not been fully supported with funds, and there is no unified approach at local level to interpreting the laws' provisions. According to a Defense Ministry analysis, two-thirds of the benefits stipulated by the Russian Federation Law "On the Status of Servicemen" are not being put into effect.

Col. Gen. Mironov pointed out that the Defense Ministry is fully aware of its responsibility to the armed forces and the state and is trying to do everything it can to stabilize the situation in the army's social sphere. This year alone over 20 orders and directives have been issued on matters pertaining to social protection for servicemen, members of their families, and civilian personnel; however, work on a large number of statutory instruments defining the mechanism for implementing laws in the "military package" is being unjustifiably delayed—the coordination process within the top echelons of power has proved unimaginably protracted.

Something else is making it hard to implement servicemen's rights and benefits in full and, moreover, effectively resolve a number of problems pertaining to the life and activity of the armed forces—inadequate funding of military budget spending. As of 1 August this year the Finance Ministry owed the military department around 2 trillion rubles. This means that there is barely enough money to keep the army and navy's vital activity at the minimum permissible level, so we are talking not so much about social protection as about the survival of the armed forces. The infrastructure of many military camps and garrisons has been neglected and does not meet present-day requirements; some units are forced to cut spending on combat training to the bone; many servicemen have not been paid for several months, and social tension in military collectives is on the increase. A particularly grave situation has developed as regards the provision of housing for the military. At present there are over 125,000 servicemen without apartments. Some 77,000 officers, ensigns, and warrant officers who have been discharged into the reserve or retired, are waiting for apartments. Given that troops are being withdrawn from the Baltic, the Transcaucasus, Moldova, and distant foreign countries and returning to Russia, the number of people needing a roof over their heads may reach 400,000 families. The stance espoused by local organs of power who owe the Defense Ministry housing is unequivocal—the shortfall is not being eliminated in practice, virtually no housing is being built for people who have been discharged from military service.

There are also plenty of problems in other areas of the social sphere. The Russian Armed Forces have lost considerable "capacities" for sanatorium and resort provision for servicemen, and virtually the entire system of rehabilitation for people engaged in onerous military work has been disrupted. Russian Federation Defense Ministry sanatoriums are currently able to meet the needs of just 5 percent of the people needing treatment and recreation. The military department leadership's repeated appeals to the Russian Federation Government asking it to transfer certain sanatoriums and rest homes that were formerly union property to Russian Federation Defense Ministry jurisdiction have not so far won support.

Given the continuing cuts in the Russian Federation Armed Forces, training and retraining of former servicemen for civilian specialisms poses an acute problem. The military department has no intention of leaving its recent cadres to the will of fate. Ten retraining centers have been set up in Russia—in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Nizhniy Novgorod, Tambov, Rostov, and other cities—and 98 training courses have been launched by the Western Group of Forces, which retrained almost 11,000 officers and ensigns during 1992-1993. Some of those who have been discharged as a result of the cuts are able to transfer to work in other state structures—security and internal affairs organs, the tax service, and the tax police. That work will continue.

In answer to questions from newspaper and other mass media correspondents, Col. Gen. Valeriy Mironov emphasized that by virtue of its acuteness the question of social protection for servicemen and members of their families is indeed a question of state policy. And it can

only be resolved if there is indeed nationwide state concern for the armed defenders of the Fatherland.

Media Issues

Commercial Banks To Take Over Channel 4

MK1908105593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed POSTFACTUM report from the "In Brief" column: "Banking Pops Up on Channel 4"]

[Text] Vladimir Shumeyko, first deputy premier of the Russian Federation Government, stated during his address to a roundtable session at the Russian Government press center that he had discussed with the president the question of transferring the so-called television Channel 4 to commercial banks for financing, and the president supported the idea. "Channel 4 will most probably be turned over to the 'Most' financial group and to several other commercial banks outside it." Banks, the deputy premier stressed, realize that it is time to alter society's moods. "Vesti" is no different, except for its announcers, from the "Novosti" program on Ostankino's Channel 1. Both carry a prodigious amount of negative information, but people are now tired of "gloom and doom" news. V. Shumeyko voiced the conviction that with the transfer of Channel 4 to commercial banks, people in Russia would get an entirely different television, where one can watch vintage comedy and entertainment programs.

Financial Times TV To Begin Broadcasts in Sep

LD2008124093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] The people of Russia will be able to acquaint themselves with news from the company "Financial Times Television" from September, Rika press reports. The news will appear on Saturdays and Sundays on Ostankino's fourth channel. The broadcasting of business news from London will satisfy the desire of business circles and the general public in Russia to receive objective information and analysis of European and world markets and also to find out about trends in the world economy. The official presentation of this project is due to take place 3 September.

Supreme Soviet

Yeltsin Appeals to Parliament for Early Elections

LD2008114893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] [Announcer] A ceremonial gathering of democratic society took place today in the mayor's office building in Moscow to mark the second anniversary of victory over the putschists. Vladimir Shumeyko presented medals to defenders of the White House, and Sergey Filatov, head of the presidential staff, read out an appeal by President Boris Yeltsin to the Russian Supreme Soviet. We will repeat it almost complete.

[Begin Filatov recording] I agree that the drawn-out constitutional and political crisis, the symptoms of which are evident to all, is having a pernicious effect on Russian statehood, and severely restricts the possibilities for constructive reformative activity in Russia. It is hardly worthwhile continuing the discussion on the reasons for this crisis. In my opinion (?there remains only) one democratic and peaceful way out of the situation that has arisen—parliamentary elections. I understand that it is not an easy decision to take, to give up powers ahead of time and stand before the voters. But if we want to continue the socioeconomic reforms and we are truly concerned more for the fate of Russia than for our own immediate interests, we simply must offer the citizens of Russia the chance to form a capable authority without delay.

Each one of us has the right to stand before the voters once more and win their trust. I call on you to discuss the issue of the conditions and procedure for holding these elections. I am ready to hold consultations on this issue. I hope that my proposal will be examined as the first item on the agenda, and a decision will be made on it.

[Signed] Boris Yeltsin [applause] [end recording]

[In exclusive remarks to London ITV Television Network's "Channel 4 News" program on 19 August, Khasbulatov comments on Yeltsin's call for early elections, saying: "Parliament does not plan to hold elections, and I can categorically say there will be no elections this year. However if the president wants to be re-elected, parliament will have no objections to that."]

Supreme Soviet Rejects Yeltsin's Media Law Amendments

LD2008130193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Report by correspondent Sergey Suntsov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Parliamentarians again examined the budget figures on which the positions of the government and the Supreme Soviet clashed. Today they discussed figures relating to social programs. Mikhail Zakharov, chairman of a committee, said that the parliament had rejected the government's proposal included in its draft budget to cut down the pension fund by 25 percent and the social security fund by 20 percent. The proposal to suspend the law on compensations to those working in the north and a number of other proposals were rejected as well. Deputies adopted a unanimous decision for Mikhail Zakharov's television address to be shown not on the Parliamentary Hour program but on Ostankino channels, because Ostankino is neutral, Ruslan Khasbulatov remarked.

The parliament ratified intergovernmental agreements on credits with nine former USSR republics. Deputies pointed out, however, that the republics failed to fulfil their obligations on supplying goods to pay off credits. They stressed that in the future giving credits should be made conditional on the fulfilment of obligations; the political situation should also be taken into account.

During the first half of the day, Minister of Information Mikhail Fedotov presented the president's amendments to the addenda to the law on the media adopted by the parliament earlier. The Supreme Soviet's addenda were regarded as an attempt against freedom of speech. Vladimir Lisin, chairman of a parliamentary committee, said that of the president's 27 amendments, only 10 were accepted for examination at the session. Even of this number, however, the deputies rejected a half of those examined before the interval. Vladimir Lisin's confrontational remarks forced the chairman to constantly reprimand him during the session.

Parliament Refuses To Give Up Power To Appoint Media Heads

LD2008133393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Today, people's deputies looked at the Law on Carrying Amendments and addendums to the Law on the Mass Media, which the president had returned to them a second time for reappraisal. Here is our special correspondent Yevgeniy Zherebenkov with the details:

[Zherebenkov] [passage omitted] Having agreed to a number of the less significant amendments proposed by the president, parliament decided to stick to their variant of the law when it came to the main issues relating to the activities of the councils to ensure freedom of speech in state radio and television broadcasts, in particular, their right to appoint and remove heads of state radio and television companies.

The adoption of the law in this form will without any doubt exacerbate what is already a very embittered fight for television and radio. It is difficult to imagine the president agreeing to the claims of the Supreme Soviet for personal control of the main channels of the mass media.

Deputies Reject Proposal To Discuss Dismissal of Ryabov

LD2008103793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Russian deputies did not support a proposal to discuss the issue of dismissing Nikolay Ryabov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet. The proposal had been put forward by Deputy Vladimir Morokin when the agenda for the 20 August extraordinary session was being discussed. In Morokin's view, Ryabov should be held responsible for wrecking legal and constitutional reforms. RIA reports that 46.7 percent of deputies voted for removing Ryabov. According to the agenda, today's session of the extraordinary session is to come back to the laws returned by President Boris Yeltsin for repeat examination.

Parliament Decides To Boost Strength of Interior Troops

LD1908130493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1148 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow August 19 TASS—The Russian parliament decided to boost the numerical strength of Interior troops by another 28,000. The commander of Russian Interior troops, Lieutenant-General Anatoli Kulikov, stressed in an interview with ITAR-TASS that the decision was prompted by several laws, including the act on defence and the act on military conscription and service.

The need for additional troops is partially explained by an eight-hour workday and 40-hour workweek as well as by a mandatory annual leave for privates and non-commissioned officers.

However, according to the commander, it will be difficult to fulfil the parliamentary decision due to a shortage of conscripts. Army units are manned only for 62 per cent with active service personnel.

Workload on servicemen remains high, especially when they fulfill peace-keeping tasks in the state of emergency zone in the north Caucasus. Troops serving on a contract basis cannot change the situation for the time being, although there are 16,000 of them and work on recruiting volunteers is in full swing.

The percentage of manning troops with commissioned officers is somewhat higher. However, the commander noted, troops need 4,000 young officers.

Asked by ITAR-TASS about the fate of the Vladikavkaz higher military school situated in "a flash point", Kulikov said: "We decided against disbanding it or transferring to another region, although there were such proposals.

"On the contrary, we did our best to preserve and strengthen the oldest school for interior troops. Cadets study according to a special curriculum, including mountain training, and will reinforce our ordinary and special motorised units."

Khasbulatov Meets Representatives of Political Parties

LD2008120693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1445 GMT 19 Aug 93

[From the "Parliamentary Hour" program]

[Text] [Announcer] A meeting between Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, and

representatives of political parties and movements was held in the House of Soviets on 18 August. Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy also attended the meeting. The political situation in the country on the eve of the anniversary of the 19 to 22 August events and seeking ways out of the power crisis were the main topics of discussion.

[Begin recording] [Khasbulatov] Meetings of this kind should be held and, strictly speaking, it is what we are doing. They should not be regarded as something extraordinary but as normal practice and as something that has its logic, its objective nature and its regularity.

I would like to thank you all sincerely for your very active participation in the work of the round table. The majority of your representatives, many of you, took part and expressed very serious and valuable thoughts. In the end it led to an important event—I am not tired of repeating this—to a very important event: the adoption of the economic declaration, of national accord, in fact, on the issues of the economic reform. By the way, it is not accidental that, since the signing of the declaration—perhaps you have noticed this yourselves—the wave of powerful political forces who are trying to pull the country back to the pre-reform period, the forces against the reforms, has gone down. This is a historical fact that the main political forces, in accordance with the will of the people, come forward in favor of economic reforms. They have demonstrated this in practice by having signed this document which which not a single enthusiastic supporter of the market could find anything wrong so that he [as heard] could say: no, there is something reactionary and conservative here and because of these points I cannot sign this document.

This was a real action and we will, naturally, have to return to it in the future. The situation gives rise to concern, after all. Me and my colleagues ... [pauses] I have been discussing these questions with Aleksandr Vladimirovich, Yuriy Mikhailovich, and naturally, with our members of the presidium. The events of 19 to 22 August do not look not very peaceful. Regrettably, some publications in the newspapers seem to be confirmed by those processes that are taking place; some predictions are coming true. Even if some of these publications were wrong, nobody is in a hurry to disprove them, although, normally, such is the practice, even if only to put the public at rest. Of course, this is only done when public opinion is something to be considered. Another thing is not to consider public opinion. It is time we sort out what all those appeals to the people mean, those constant references to its authority and, at the same time, the total disregard of the people when they are overcome by serious anxiety.

In connection with this, I think, we should leave any disagreements alone and stand firmly in defense of democracy—democracy within the system of representative power. We still have democracy today, even if it is not full-scale democracy. It embodies, first of all, the actions of the Supreme Soviet. If we do not have the Supreme Soviet, then—excuse me—whoever criticizes us, even the most severe of our critics among the journalists will instantly find themselves thrown out from public life. This should be understood. We offer opportunity for criticism, even severe criticism, just because we exist and we do our work. Like Rousseau—remember this famous expression: I do not share your views, he said to his opponent, but I will give my life for you to be able to express them. Hence, we too do not share these views—and I do not share many of these views myself. By the very fact of our presence here and our high-quality work, however, we give people opportunity to express any views within the boundaries of the law. Often, unfortunately, those outside the law—we have these too. We have calls for the overthrow of the Supreme Soviet by force, calls for the dissolution of the Supreme Soviet coming sometime from newspapers. Of course, this is illegal. If our law-enforcement organs were efficient enough, of course, such publications and such journalists would not just be warned but probably deprived of the opportunities to call for and make such anti-constitutional appeals.

We should, however, also understand this: Without the Supreme Soviet there is no democracy. No constitutional assemblies, no soviets of federations can replace the constitutional bodies of power elected in accordance with the existing constitution. [end recording]

[Announcer] Representatives of parties and movements have expressed serious concern about hysteria being whipped up by certain political forces and some media and calls for using unconstitutional measures against the soviets. The importance of preventing provocations and clashes during the celebrations of the second anniversary of the August events was especially stressed. Participants in the meeting supported the call for joining their forces in defense of democracy and the lawfully elected bodies of representative power. Touching upon the activities of the Security Council interdepartmental commission for fighting crime and corruption among the top officials, Ruslan Khasbulatov called them illegal.

[Begin recording] [Khasbulatov] I have learned with regret today that a session has taken place—also of some illegal commission—which has been adopting decisions that, for example, again, only the procuracy can adopt. Decisions in regards to ... [pauses] it has been decided, you see, that the procurator general should be replaced. Listen, what is this? Think for yourselves—proceedings are practically being instituted against the procurator general and sent to—who do you think—the procurator of the city of Moscow. [end recording]

Khasbulatov Ready for 'Compromise' on Constitution

MK2008071993 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA report: "Khasbulatov: We Shall Sit Down at the Negotiating Table, Have a Talk...."]

[Text] NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, in its issue no. 155 of 18 August 1993, published an address by Constitutional Commission Secretary Oleg Rumyantsev to the president and the head of parliament. It contained an appeal to create a coordinated draft constitution for the Russian Federation. Chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov has responded to Rumyantsev's appeal: "Oleg Germanovich, I agree with you on the key issue: It is necessary to work jointly, to sit down at the negotiating table soon, have a talk, have a debate, and find a common unifying basis for compromise. I should once again like to tell you—I am ready for serious work with the president. I have nothing in principle against such work and I have no prejudice. Moreover, society is demanding this from us."

Khasbulatov, Parliament Seen on 'Suicidal' Course

PM2008081593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Aug 93 pp 1,2

[Article by Yeltsin's Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov: "Supreme Soviet: Suicide Syndrome"]

[Text] For some years now the West has been hotly debating the concept of "euthanasia"—the voluntary departure from life of someone with an incurable illness. It is a purely ethical problem, bound up with Christian morality and with the idea of the value of the human individual. As far as I know, the term has not been used in politics, in regard to social relations.

At the same time, the phenomena engendered by the activities of the Supreme Soviet and its speaker R.I. Khasbulatov simply compel one to draw an analogy betweeen a person's suicide and the self-destruction of the social organism.

Far be it from me to suggest that the Supreme Soviet chairman is conducting a conscious and deliberate policy of destroying parliament. He needs it, since the Supreme Soviet is essentially the only arena and instrument of his policy, and the "White House" is an enclave, the only place where what the speaker says still has any value. The very idea that the people love R. Khasbulatov sounds like a blasphemy against the people. I hope Ruslan Imranovich will not have any illusions on this score at least. So the Supreme Soviet, which has effectively been turned by Khasbulatov into a personal "new type of party," should have been cherished and treated by him as the apple of his eye.

But, evidently, the old story about the scorpion which, while crossing a river on a frog, gave it a lethal sting ("I know the score, but I cannot avoiding stinging"), is based on a particular psychological flaw. Because the latest, and not only the very latest, actions initiated by R. Khasbulatov in the Supreme Soviet prompt the notion of a suicide complex. Political suicide, of course.

Let us reflect on just a few lethal stings. The first was the blocking of the moderately tough budget devised by the government and the adoption instead of a hyperdeficit budget undermining the power of state finances. The second was the double rejection of the president's edicts on the protection of the population's interests during privatization. And the third (perhaps the most suicidal, although most drawn-out) is the squeezing out of the Supreme Soviet of anything that represented even moderate opposition to Ruslan Imranovich's personal opinion. In the process people with considerable moral and political clout and just sensible, well-balanced people who know the healing power of compromise have been and are being driven out. What remains is a solid cohort of supporters of confrontation, a new generation of Soviet sword-bearers. It is clear to the majority of unbiased observers that Ruslan Imranovich himself is a hostage of the communists and national-socialists. It is perfectly clear that these forces need Khasbulatov insofar as he is skilled in parliamentary battles, he is smart and resourceful, and understands the nuances of political sophistry. In this capacity he acts as a kind of pilot for the conservative icebreakers whose aim is to break the thin ice of Russian democracy.

Doesn't Khasbulatov realize that he will cease to exist politically the very moment when Russian democracy collapses under pressure from the antireformist forces? I think he does. That is the tragedy of his situation, the signs of which we can read almost daily on the speaker's face in his majestic appearances in the sugarcoated parliamentary hour.

Why doesn't he stop this game of self-destruction, then? The answer is not simple. It cannot be discounted that Ruslan Imranovich began as a democrat and made his own not inconsiderable contribution to the destruction of the CPSU machine (the communists will not forgive him for this either, incidentally). I believe that the chief, central reason is clear—he was carried away and then poisoned by power. For its sake he deserted the camp of his former friends, changed his political stripes, and betrayed the president, to whom he owes his rise. He eventually got tangled up in the struggle for this power, in the endless maneuvering and grappling and the overt and covert treachery. He lost the central pivot of politics because he was engrossed in tactics. He became a gambler, forgetting more and more that you do not place democracy on the green baize of the gaming table, and it is certainly not something that befits one who made his political career out of democracy.

It is difficult to see how R.I. Khasbulatov can escape from this labyrinth. The world of gamblers is a cruel one and recognizes neither services, nor authority. But I believe there are ways out, fitting ones at that. But it requires a sober and utterly self-critical measurement of the scale of one's own personality against the scale of Russia's democratic destiny. And you have to find a niche in history that does not appear too large for your own growth. It is not for me to give advice on how to get out of this dangerous game, and with whose help.

Unfortunately the speaker is continuing his war of words. Against the background of a general decline in

political morality (which he had a lot to do with himself), this war is increasingly overstepping the bounds of the acceptable and beginning to assume the monstrous shape of "black propaganda." Recently President Yeltsin's health has become the subject of speculation, patently encouraged by the speaker.

The opposition's attempts to declare B. Yeltsin mortally ill are connected with its political bankruptcy. It does not have its own program for getting the country out of the crisis. Its "all power to the soviets" slogans and its desire to revive the rigid State Planning Committee system are not constructive at all and are not supported by the population.

One very important achievement of the two years of reforms is the fact that despite all the difficulties the population has essentially taken on board the ideology and practice of reforms. The recent absurd decision by the Supreme Soviet to cancel privatization met with no positive response on the part of the vast majority of people. It is interesting that Russian banks and exchanges trading in privatization checks did not even react to this. The population is continuing actively to buy shares in enterprises to be privatized.

The progress of the reforms is evidenced by the fact that there has been a good harvest this year despite a significant reduction in the total volume of arable land. This means that the reform has begun to work in agriculture too, and peasants have at last started to show a commitment to the results of their labor. It is possible that this year, for the first time since the mid-sixties, Russia will not be importing wheat from abroad. It was rumors of this that caused the world wheat price to "collapse" from $130 to $106 per tonne.

The country has a positive trade balance for the first time in some years, and Russian banks, including private banks, have in the region of 20 billion in hard currency reserves. The task is to stimulate internal investments from this reserve.

Against the background of the first signs of economic recovery the communist and nationalist opposition, which is openly headed by R. Khasbulatov in parliament and by A. Rutskoy outside, has decided to go for broke, so to speak. This is partly the president's fault too. He overestimated the margin of safety and the respite given by the referendum and underestimated the Supreme Soviet's ability to maneuver and exploit the social difficulties.

The Supreme Soviet's current aggressive behavior indicates that its leadership believes it can take revenge for the referendum defeat and has a plan for antipresidential actions. The attack is being made in a deliberately ostentatious fashion. The opposition's tactics are clear—provoke the president into drastic measures (dissolution of parliament, for example), accuse him of attempting a coup d'etat, and make another impeachment attempt.

But one has discerned quite different tactics in the president's recent actions. He has no intention of closing parliament. In fact, the president's and government's tactics were prompted, or, rather, forced on them, by the Supreme Soviet itself. Through its absurd actions and its impracticable decisions...

The precedent was established a long time ago, when the government, with the president's support, declared that it did not intend to implement the hyperdeficit budget parliament was trying to impose on the government and would take the budget devised by the government. As is known, the president issued a decree confirming the population's right to privatization, dismissing the Supreme Soviet's intention to wind up the process. The statement by vice premiers V. Shumeyko and B. Fedorov that the government does not envisage financing the so-called "oversight council" created by parliament can be interpreted in this vein. The "council" was left dangling in space as soon as it was created.

It cannot be ruled out either that the president and government will ignore the Supreme Soviet's opinion on very important cadre appointments.

So the Supreme Soviet is kind of in a "political quarantine" that it made for itself. It meets, makes noises, but is having no real impact on the practice of reforms (aside from slowing them down). Given that it is extremely unpopular with the population, the current Supreme Soviet is actually incapable of countering these tactics with anything other than verbal rhetoric. The only thing that can change the situation is new parliamentary elections.

Of course, what is needed in this situation is internal unity in the government and its solidarity with the president. It is in this sphere that the fiercest behind-the-scenes struggle will continue in the immediate future. The Supreme Soviet will make every effort to destabilize and split the government. The frenzied attacks on V. Shumeyko and A. Chubays and the recent hullabaloo in parliament over the resignation of V. Barannikov as security minister bear witness to this.

In recent days the opposition press and part of the independent press have been busy making guesses about the composition of the Cabinet of Ministers. Gaydar, Yavlinskiy, Skokov, and Volskiy are being tipped as premier. I think these forecasts are very premature. Chernomyrdin's position is strong. He has already stood the test in tandem with Yeltsin. Against the background of this speculation, it is particularly interesting that even B. Yeltsin's most rabid opponents are not coming up with any serious hypotheses about alternative figures for the post of president. Aleksandr Rutskoy, who acquired a pretty good, but, it would seem, temporary political rating as a result of skillful demagoguery, is clearly viewed by the opposition only as a transitional, temporary figure.

So Boris Yeltsin remains the most powerful figure on the Russian political chessboard. The surge in the president's activities in recent days shows that he is still a mighty powerful political leader. The hot political fall he has promised shows that Yeltsin has a pretty clear-cut plan of action. This plan is based on the clear idea that collaboration between the president and the present Supreme Soviet is no longer possible. So the immediate aim is early Supreme Soviet elections. No one questions the value and necessity of the institution of parliament as far as Russian democracy is concerned.

Press Service Comments on Charges Against Rutskoy, Stepankov

PM2008092993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Not a Word About Corruption. Or Else..."]

[Text] The Parliamentary Press Service has issued a statement that says: "An example of one of the political salvos in the 'softening up' operation announced by the president was provided 18 August by the decision of the Security Council Interdepartmental Commission To Combat Crime and Corruption to recommend to B.N. Yeltsin that he pass the question of the 'conduct' of Vice President A.V. Rutskoy to the Constitutional Court and submit the question of the removal [otstavka] of Russian General Prosecutor V.G. Stepankov to the Supreme Soviet.

"In this connection the Parliamentary Press Service notes that the question of any given actions by the vice president can be examined by the country's supreme judicial bodies only if indisputably convincing documentary evidence is presented.

"As for involving the Supreme Soviet in the matter of V.G. Stepankov, the following must be borne in mind. The general prosecutor of the Russian Federation is appointed and released from his post by the Supreme Soviet with subsequent confirmation of this decision by the Congress of People's Deputies. It is logical to hope that that in this instance this step by the president and the commission under him is not an attempt to settle political scores with a person who is conducting an active struggle against corruption, including in the top echelons of power and administration.

"At the same time the facts testify to precisely the reverse. Attention is drawn by the fact that the interdepartmental commission's feverish activity to gather 'compromising material' on the vice president and the general prosecutor got going after they had openly exposed corruption in the echelons of executive power and adopted a position of principle in defense of Russia's constitutional system. As is known, the Supreme Soviet, on the basis of materials presented by the General Prosecutor's Office, has recommended to the president that he remove discredited top officials from their posts. Instead of examining the serious charges which have been made at a commission session, the interdepartmental commission—manifestly not on its own initiative—has gotten involved in gathering material against the accusers themselves.

"In the light of this turn of events is it possible to depend on the impartiality of the commission? The impression being created is that events are developing according to a predetermined scenario with a single objective—using any means to discredit supporters of constitutional legality and law and order and thereby distract public attention from unsavory matters in the top echelons of executive power."

Khasbulatov: 'No Elections This Year'

LD2008054993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0500 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov thinks there will be no parliamentary elections this autumn. He told a RIA agency correspondent this, or rather his press secretary Konstantin Zlobin told the correspondent this in answer to a question on the [parliamentary] speaker's reaction to Boris Yeltsin's statement at the news conference on 19 August.

[In exclusive remarks to London ITV Television Network's "Channel 4 News" program on 19 August, Khasbulatov comments on Yeltsin's call for early elections, saying: "Parliament does not plan to hold elections, and I can categorically say there will be no elections this year. However if the president wants to be re-elected, parliament will have no objections to that."]

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Tours Moscow Enterprises

LD2008123093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By correspondents N. Buchatskaya and K. Belov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Announcer Tatyana Khudobina] The Russian president began his working day today with a visit to Moscow enterprises.

[N. Buchatskaya] Today Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin visited a wallpaper factory, one of the oldest Russian enterprises, that was opened in 1864 as a textile mill. Reconstruction has been going on here for seven years now. [passage omitted]

[K. Belov] The second industrial enterprise in Moscow that Boris Yeltsin visited today relates to the construction industry. The Moskva-tol factory was founded in the twenties. It is now the (?Tilekrovlya) joint-stock company. Polymeric roof coverings and waterproof

roofing materials are produced here. The Russian president looked round the workshops, inspected special technological features, and the workers' working conditions.

Chernomyrdin Addresses Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Meeting

OW1908125893 Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Teleradiokompaniya Sakhalin Television Network in Russian 1905 GMT 18 Aug 93

[By R. Shagiakhmetov; from the "As of This Hour" newscast]

[Text] Today is the second and concluding day of the visit to our oblast of the delegation headed by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin. A meeting with the public rounded up the visit. Leaders of the oblast, cities, and rayons; heads of oblast administrations and departments; as well as people's deputies, entrepreneurs, and representatives of public organizations gathered in the large hall of the Oblast Trade Unions building Sakhalin Oblast Governor Yevgeniy Krasnoyarov opened the meeting. He gave a brief outline of the problems of primary concern to the people of Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands and presented the Russian Government a package of 10 proposals. They deal with politics, economics, the development of the Sakhalin Shelf, fishing, tariffs for electricity, and social issues. Yevgeniy Alekseyevich noted in particular that we must achieve a situation in which a Russian citizen feels equally confident and comfortable in any part of the country.

The meeting was then addressed by the head of the Russian Government who noted right away that he fully supports all of the Sakhalin governor's proposals. Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin gave concise but precise and clear answers to all 10 proposals made by the head of the Sakhalin administration. The head of the government said that the Northern Territories problem does not exist for us. You should be friendly with Japan as your neighbor, trade with it, and exchange delegations, but we will not deal with any territorial issues. We do not need the land of others, but we will not give up an inch of our land either. This unequivocal response of the head of the Russian Government even drew applause in the hall.

In concluding his speech, Viktor Chernomyrdin assured the meeting participants that all the problems raised in the course of his visit will be dealt with in an operative way by the government. Meeting participants then addressed questions to the head of the Cabinet of Ministers. The government delegation which is touring the Far East Region left for Vladivostok today.

Visits Primorye Territory

LD1908164393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1556 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Vinogradov]

[Text] Vladivostok August 19 TASS—Addressing municipal authorities, heads of trade unions and enterprises of the Primorye territory, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin summed up the results of his tour of the Far East. Speaking with strong emotion, he said specifically: "We are not going to cede the Kurils to anyone, and the government is not going to discuss such matters with anybody. We can discuss tasks of joint work on the islands and northing else", the prime minister said.

Dwelling on economic matters, Chernomyrdin said that "the government is not going to go panhandling or asking anybody's aid. Russia wants equal cooperation in the world market in every area, including arms sale. But those who dominate the world market now are not interested in Russia's advance to that market", Chernomyrdin said. "They want Russia to disintegrate and can hardly wait to this," he said without mincing words. "We propose working together to our close and remote neighbours, to earn together and develop the economy".

Regarding problems of the Far East, the Russian prime minister noted its growing role in the country's economy. The struggle between different branches of the authorities prevents bringing this role to a due level. The centre and regions have already taken steps towards each other, and discussed prospects of economic development in a sober and balanced way. A new approach to drawing up the country's budget has manifested itself. It consists of reducing the budget deficit.

Subsidies have already been handed out, and nothing good has come of it, Chernomyrdin said. Regions and entire Russia should live on what they can earn. Prospects for the Far East lie in developing regions along the Baykal-Amur mainline, in developing the Sakhalin shelf with partners from other countries and in consolidation of economic ties with China.

There exist in the Primorye territory excellently equipped enterprises of the defence industries. Their gradual switching to the manufacture of quality civilian products can help saturate the market with necessities.

Chernomyrdin said Russia can manufacture the world's best missiles. It is time to begin to manufacture all products of as high standards. "The government is committed to reform, is eager to work and cooperate with all healthy forces in regions. The government adopted the programme for 1994 in which priority is given to social aspects of the Russian people's life. The government will be implementing this programme unswervingly.

The meeting was told that the government met halfway the demands of Primorye trade unions in many aspects. The price of energy carriers will be cut from 60 to 40 roubles per kilowatt-hour. Credits will be given to various industries of the territory. For instance, ten billion roubles is allocated to modernise the biggest sugar refinery in the region. Considerable relief will be given to districts affected by tidal waves. Benefits will be given to

servicemen discharged with the reduction of the army. A government decree stimulating the development of the economy of the Primorye territory and improvement of the living standards of its populations will soon be adopted on a basis of documents worked out jointly by representatives of the central authorities and chiefs of the territory.

Chernomyrdin flew to Khabarovsk on Thursday.

Visits Khabarovsk Enterprises

LD2008080993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0323 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Khabarovsk, 20 Aug—"We will assist the defense complex, and it is important to maintain the collectives of enterprises with a powerful technical and intellectual potential," Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian Government, said today while visiting the Khabarovsk shipyards. The workers of the enterprise spoke about the difficult conditions that the collective was experiencing. Work volumes had fallen sharply, no one was happy about wages, and people were forced to seek higher pay and leave the enterprise.

The prime minister looked at how the construction of various types of vessels was going. In carrying out conversion the Khabarovsk shipbuilders had begun the production of fishing trawlers. Other civil production is also being manufactured at the yard. However, the conversion program has not been backed up with sufficient financial state support. The military departments, too, owe the enterprise billions of rubles. Viktor Chernomyrdin assured the shipbuilders that the government will be examining the situation that had developed at defense enterprises in the Far East, and will permit the Khabarovsk shipyards to sell their output abroad.

The prime minister of the Russian Government today also visited a Far East poultry farm and then set off for a troop unit. In the second half of the day he will hold a conference with the leaders of industrial enterprises, scientific, and other organizations and the heads of local power bodies. Problems of the economy would figure at the center of attention at the conference.

Soskovets Arrives in Nakhodka Free Economic Zone

LD2008093993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0902 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Vinogradov]

[Text] Nakhodka, August 20 (TASS)—Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets arrived in the Nakhodka Free Economic Zone today. He will study problems of the free economic zones within the framework of the analysis of the economic situation in the Far East. Nakhodka was granted the status of a free economic zone three years ago, but it still cannot be a safe place for domestic and foreign investments, because Russian laws on free economic zones are often changed in a way, which is not advantageous for those zones.

Soskovets familiarised himself with the work of the Nakhodka ports and other facilities, built with the help of foreign investors, and held a meeting with heads of the local government, senior executive of state enterprises and representatives of commercial structures. He stressed that the government was taking measures to support free economic zones in Russia. New documents are now being drawn up, whose adoption will give to Nakhodka the freedom of economic action, which is necessary for it for attracting foreign businessmen on a large scale both from former USSR republic and other foreign states.

Ossetian, Ingush Representatives Meet in Chermen Village

LD1908205693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2019 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Vladikavkaz August 19 TASS—A meeting of representatives of Ossetian and Ingush intelligentsia was held on Friday in Chermen village of Prigorodnyy district of North Ossetia with the participation of the service of the negotiating process of the provisional administration in the zone of the state of emergency. ITAR-TASS learned this by telephone from the press center of the provisional administration.

This was another meeting in the framework of people's diplomacy. As is known, veterans and elders of the two republics have earlier gathered at a round table. Similar meetings of women, religious leaders, representatives of youth organisations and of soldiers who fought in the Afghan war are planned.

The purpose of these meetings is to prepare the conflicting sides for the resumption of a dialogue on problems of peace settlement of the conflict. Experience shows that efforts of state structures are not enough to achieve ethnic accord.

The participants in the meeting in Chermen discussed the possibility of living side by side for Ossetians and Ingushes, one of the most debated questions of the Ossetian-Ingush relations. They arrived in the conclusion that lawful rights of the individual are immune in accordance with norms of international law. Those present also noted that during the existing confrontation the road of the peoples of the two republics to peace, accord and mutual confidence is not easy. But it is possible, if traditions of the caucasian people's deplomacy having the mechanism for reconsoliation of deadly enemies is used skillfully.

It was also stressed that the refraining from confrontation and stabilisation of the situation in the zone of the state of emergency are in the interests not only of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, but also of the Northern Caucasus and Russia as a whole.

Khabarovsk To Hold Referendum on Far Eastern Republic

LD2008094893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 20 Aug 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] On 19 August, the Khabarovsk Kray Soviet Inner Council decided to hold a referendum throughout the region on the question of the formation of a Far Eastern Republic in order to ensure greater economic independence for the Far Eastern region.

Kaliningrad Inspector on Drug Situation

WS1908135393 Kaliningrad STRAZH BALTIKI in Russian 29 Jul 93 p 2

[Interview with Major Nikolay Volkov, head of the Kaliningrad Drug Enforcement Department, by N. Naumova; place and date not given: "Weeds Are Crossing Our Threshold"]

[Excerpts] [Naumova] How do you assess the narcotics situation in our region?

[Volkov] The situation is very alarming. In my opinion, numbers are more convincing than words. Some 2,500 drug addicts and traffickers have a record with the oblast's Internal Affairs Department. There are 140 drug addicts among every 100,000 people living in the oblast. This is more than three times higher than the average Russian figure. The rate of drug-related crimes exceeds the Russian rate by two and one-half times. We may soon even off with the Central Asian republics, which are traditional centers of drug trafficking. [passage omitted] Last year, we uncovered 433 crimes related to illegal exchange of drugs and confiscated 430 kilograms of narcotics. [passage omitted]

[Naumova] The Armed Forces are becoming more and more concerned with the problem of drugs. Do servicemen face the problem as well?

[Volkov] Unfortunately, this group is not exempted. Addicts are often drafted and some of them continue to buy and use drugs during the military service. Servicemen often become involved in illegal trafficking. Not long ago, we detained a group of Kaliningrad Higher Naval School cadets who were trafficking drugs. The case has been directed to the prosecutor's office.

We are especially concerned with negligent attitude taken toward the storage of psychotropic medicine in a number of military units. Large quantities of these medicines are later sold on the market.

[Naumova] How close are your contacts with the military in the field of combating drugs? What possible ways exist for developing this kind of cooperation?

[Volkov] We have the potential for cooperation, however it is not being used. Take the joint detection of drug users, for instance: Many draftees openly admit the use of narcotics to avoid military service. Military commissariats could grant us access to this information. We also need vehicles and reinforcements for joint operations. We would appreciate helicopters to search for poppy plantations in the oblast. Border control also presents problems and we could resolve them together. [passage omitted]

International Affairs

NATO Admiral's Visit to Crimea Assessed

PM1908141593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 2

[Correspondent Aleksandr Milkus report: "Admiral Miller Avoided All the Reefs"]

[Text] Odessa—Yesterday's rapid tour of Odessa and Kiev by U.S. Admiral Paul Miller, NATO supreme allied commander, Atlantic, had more by way of political significance. The Atlantic allies demonstrated once again the attention they pay today to strategically important Ukraine, which, moreover, possesses nuclear weapons.

This was, to all appearances, a "range-finding" visit. In an informal setting the admiral got acquainted with Commander in Chief of the Ukrainian Navy Boris Kozhyn, military district commanders, and the leadership of the Defense Ministry. That is to say, he got to know the people who determine the nature of the independent state's army. He did so in order to determine whether you can do business with them, and if you can, what kind of business. Aware that the military cooperation with NATO countries desired by the Ukraine depends upon the impression produced, the hosts pulled out all the stops. The patrol escort ship Hetman Sahaydachnyy, which was launched at Kerch a month ago, was sailed up to Odessa from Sevastopol specially for the admiral.

From KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's files it emerges that as of today Ukraine's navy consists of four ships. Last year the command ship Slavutych was launched. Two months ago it was joined by the small amphibious warfare ship Donetsk There is also the highly obsolete escort ship no. 112, and now there is the patrol escort ship Hetman Sahaydachnyy. In Nikolayev another vessel of the Slava class is being gotten ready to raise the Ukrainian flag. And over the next two years Ukraine plans to build 10 new warships in all.

Of course, many people linked the admiral's arrival to the situation in Sevastopol, but Admiral Miller was extremely guarded in his language. While acknowledging that the Black Sea is a U.S. sphere of interest and that its [yego] warships do enter it from time to time, he noted: "But in general the division of the fleet is the internal affair of the two powers."

Presidential Representative on Sevastopol's Status

PM1908160793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Aug 93 First Edition p 7

[Interview with Ivan Yermakov, Ukrainian president's representative in Sevastopol, by Boris Sverdlov in Sevastopol; date not given: "Gloomy in Sevastopol, Clear Weather Notwithstanding"]

[Text] These days Sevastopol, a colorful mass of flowerbeds, green chestnut trees and vines, is unusually beautiful and pleasant. Long after midnight there are hordes of people on the seafront promenade... And although every summer is a delight to the people of Sevastopol, this one nonetheless has one special feature that you are bound to notice. In all the townspeople's conversations you sense their concern at the situation that has developed following the Russian Supreme Soviet's decision on the status of Sevastopol. It did after all elicit an extremely adverse response from official Kiev. Some parliament deputies and leaders of nationalist parties and movements demanded that contacts be severed with Russia, while the most extreme virtually demanded that war be declared.

This was where our conversation with Ivan Yermakov, the Ukrainian president's representative in Sevastopol, began.

[Yermakov] I will not oversimplify the situation. Such calls are indeed being heard in Ukraine. Some hotheads are ready even now, weapon in hand, to defend Sevastopol. However, there are also people like that in Russia. What does that indicate? That both sides will not give in to one another. The politicians should clearly understand that. Particularly the Russian parliament, which has adopted a very dubious and thoughtless decision. God help us if two Slav peoples, which have from time immemorial considered themselves brothers, fall out over Sevastopol. Our descendants will not forgive us.

[Sverdlov] As I understood it, you consider that the Russian Supreme Soviet adopted a decision that has no backing in legality or historical justice?

[Yermakov] I am firmly convinced that it is primarily based on arrogance. Emotions have trampled common sense underfoot. Sevastopol is indeed a city of Russian glory. It could not however be a city of Ukrainian glory. If only because when it was founded Ukraine was part of Russia. Nonetheless I will be so bold as to say that many people besides the Russians have forged the glory of Sevastopol.

[Sverdlov] But Sevastopol was never part of Ukraine. It remained a city of republic status notwithstanding Khrushchev's regal gift to Ukraine in 1954. On the other hand, Russia has been recognized as the rightful heir of the former Union. So Sevastopol should by rights belong to Russia.

[Yermakov] Today rights are dictated by the situation. And the situation is such that it will not stand further complexities. One must not forget that Sevastopol is jam-packed full of weapons. And, were anything to happen, things would be awkward for everyone.

But taking the broader view, the Russian Supreme Soviet decision is a by-product. The primary product was created in the Belovezhskaya Forest. I am confident that no one thought about the future of Sevastopol when the Union was dissolved. And we are now unraveling the

tangle. But note, a very important document was signed there as regards inviolability of borders.

I was hurt, to put it mildly, by the fact that the Supreme Soviet did not invite the city's officials and the Crimean leadership to discuss the status of Sevastopol. Are we really aliens here, are we not responsible for the fate of the citizens? After all, Kruglov, chairman of the National Salvation Front, whom Russian deputies consult on all matters and who was virtually the key player at the session, by no means reflects the citizens' opinion.

[Sverdlov] By the way, Ivan Fedosovich, after B. Yeltsin and L. Kravchuk met in Moscow, you said that the fleet should remain united and under Russian control. But shortly after a visit to Kiev you amended your opinion: You said that the fleet should be united without clarifying to whom it should belong. Why do you, as the Ukrainian president's representative, not share the opinion espoused by Kravchuk, who is wholeheartedly in favor of dividing up the fleet?

[Yermakov] You must bear in mind that I am not only the president's representative, but also a Crimean Supreme Soviet and Sevastopol City Soviet deputy. Sessions of these bodies decided unequivocally that the Black Sea Fleet should remain united.

Moreover, as a former career officer in Sevastopol I see no mechanism for dividing it up. Something else is important to me: Who will pay the city for maintaining the Black Sea Fleet. For the fresh water and the upkeep of well over 1,000km of pipelines. Russia is not forking out at the moment.

[Sverdlov] Ivan Fedosovich, Russian citizens moreover, like the people of Sevastopol, are very alarmed by the fact that special-purpose troops are being deployed in and around the city...

[Yermakov] Let me state officially that there are no special-purpose troops in and around Sevastopol although I cannot vouch for the entire Crimea.

[Sverdlov] How, in your view, will Sevastopol's future take shape?

[Yermakov] I cannot say. I think that it should be decided at presidential and parliamentary levels with consideration for the prevailing situation and, of course, the opinion of the people of Sevastopol themselves. That was why the city soviet session decided to poll the townspeople as regards the Russian Supreme Soviet's decision on the status of Sevastopol.

UN Mission Seeks Compensation for Soldier Killed in Bosnia

AU2008133793 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 17 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Ukraine's Appeal to the United Nations"]

[Text] United Nations. (UKRINFORM). Ukraine's permanent mission at the United Nations Organization has sent a letter to the UN secretary general and to the chairman of the Security Council. It reads, in particular:

On 11 August, during a reconnoitering mission in the area of the Zepa security zone [in Bosnia-Herzegovina], an armored personnel carrier of the Ukrainian battalion within the UN forces in former Yugoslavia was hit by an antipersonnel mine. As a result, Lieutenant Colonel Viktor Slyvnyy died and two other officers from the Ukrainian battalion—Major Petro Kovalchuk and Captain Serhiy Kulakov—were wounded.

Ukraine's permanent mission at the United Nations expresses the hope that the United Nations will do everything necessary to pay compensation to the family of Viktor Slyvnyy, and also that the necessary medical help will be given to the wounded Ukrainian officers.

Ukraine's permanent mission demanded that the United Nations secretary general take the appropriate measures to investigate this mishap and to punish those responsible for the tragic event.

Official Discusses Bosnian Events With Foreign Diplomats

AU1908182393 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 17 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "A Conversation With Diplomats"]

[Text] Ukraine's first deputy minister of foreign affairs Mykola Makarevych met with heads of diplomatic missions of countries that are members of the UN Security Council who are accredited in Ukraine.

The foreign diplomats expressed their sympathy in connection with the recent losses in the Ukrainian battalion of the UN peacekeeping forces in former Yugoslavia.

Mykola Makarevych emphasized Ukraine's concern about the dangerous course of events involving Bosnia and Herzegovina.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Interviewed on Referendum

LD1908214393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2055 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Demidenko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev August 20 TASS— The situation in Ukraine will be defined in the period ahead by at least two important political aspects: the problem of a referendum and the problem of an economic alliance. Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said this in an interview to Ukrainian television on Thursday [19 August]. He

believes these two questions will be central to the forthcoming session and Ukraine's political life.

As regards a referendum, Kravchuk believes the decision on early parliamentary elections and on local councils should be adopted now. It is also necessary to decide what kind of a country will be built: whether it will be a presidential, a parliamentary, or a parliamentary-presidential republic. If the people declare for a parliamentary republic, new parliament will be elected. It will elect government and the institute of presidency will be discarded. There will be no need to spend funds on referendums and to aggravate the political situation.

Regarding the problem of an economic alliance, Kravchuk said that he has been and is for integration. He noted that this idea had been advanced by Ukraine. Late last year in Minsk it was precisely Ukraine that proposed economic integration in the framework of the CIS. Ukraine advanced a document that is in the protocol. Then the governments were instructed to draft an agreement. A specific agreement should be discussed now. It is necessary to be guided by realities. If one should sign an agreement, it should be realistic, advantageous and should ensure economic and political independence of every state.

The Ukrainian president said he will have a meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the Crimea on September 3. A document to be signed is being drafted by the Russian and Ukrainian Governments.

Considerable time in the interview was given to the August 1991 events. These were not easy times, the president said. When a military delegation headed by General Varennikov arrived in Kiev, Ukraine was still within the Union. It was realised in Ukraine what forces there exist to compell it to be silent about independence. The USSR had been disintegrating for a long time. Everybody understood that the empire will disintegrate, but far from everybody knew how soon it will happen and if it will be possible in a peaceful way. It is due to independence of states that emerged after the putsch that peace could be preserved. If independent states have not formed so promptly, a conflict could spread. There is a different point of view that the conflict was caused by the disintegration of the Union. But it should be remembered that the Karabakh problem arose during the existence of the Union. This is not the reason. The reason is that the state existed by relying on power and dictatorship.

Ukraine has been an independent country for two years. Peace and calm are reigning in Ukraine. This is due to people who have courage and reason to wage political battles by words.

Ukraine as a state has been recognised by the world, Kravchuk said. The majority of people feel that the state exists and should be protected. There is discontent, there are problems, but still there is advance. There are psychological changes, the master emerges. Democracy really exists. No one has been brought to book for political problems.

There is economic advance. Achievements of rural toilers are particularly heartening. This is an occasion to thank those who grew good crops in difficult conditions.

There are also positive features in international life. Kravchuk expressed gratitude and respect to people who believe in Ukraine and work for its statehood, for the assertion of its strength.

Miners' Leader Warns of Putsch Planned for November

MK1908103993 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Aug 93 p 2

[Unattributed report from the "In Brief" column]

[Text] Donetsk—In the opinion of Donetsk coal miners, a putsch is being prepared in Ukraine. This was stated by Mikhail Krylov, one of the leaders of Ukraine's workers' and trade union movement, cochairman of the Donetsk city working miners (strike) committee, as he addressed a conference of Donbass coal mines representatives on 17 August. The execution of the putsch (in which Ukraine's armed forces are to take part) is scheduled for November 1993. This action, according to M. Krylov, will be carried out in a more organized and tough manner than was the one in Russia in August 1991. The objectives of the putschists are to crush the workers' movement and oppose reforms in Ukraine.

Committee Created in Kherson Oblast To Support President

AU1908172093 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 17 Aug 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "The President Is Getting Support"]

[Text] A Committee for Supporting the President has been created in Kherson. It is composed of authoritative people who enjoy respect in the oblast and who did not, previously, take an active part in the political struggle. The committee does not strive to cooperate with parties or movements, believing that they will not be able to significantly influence the results of the expected September referendum. The only exception has been made in the case of Ukraine's Labor Congress whose oblast organization is gaining increasing confidence among the population owing to its constructive program.

Government To Provide Bread Subsidy

LD2008014693 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1550 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev, 19 August—As we already reported, there was a conference-seminar with representatives of the agroindustrial complex of Ukraine on the results of the

visit by Ukraine's Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma to agricultural areas in Dnepropetrovsk, Poltava, and Kiev oblasts. The participants in the conference-seminar spoke out for the continuation of the policy of state orders and emphasized the necessity to improve agrotechnical service. "The harvest is rich but it can be gathered in without losses with the help of foreign-made harvesters only, cows can be milked properly using foreign milking machines only," emphasized the conference participants.

As far as the price for agricultural produce is concerned, those present spoke out for its indexation depending on the inflation rates. However, Ukraine's Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma emphasized that without solving issues of social protection the government cannot approve such a decision. This issue will be submitted for the consideration of the Supreme Council. "But we cannot get away from it," underlined the prime minister. "If we keep prices for grain at this level, Ukraine will have no grain, it will be taken away from it. Even the customs will be of no help." Now the government has prepared a resolution to provide every resident of Ukraine with a subsidy for a definite amount of bread. Preliminarily it has been decided to provide 400 grams per day per one person. "Prices for all other products are free," underlined Leonid Kuchma.

Increase in Counterfeit Bank Notes Viewed

AU1908185493 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 17 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed report published under the rubric "Fact"]

[Text] Over the past week, a large number of forged bank notes worth almost 150,000 karbovantsi [K] were withdrawn from the monetary circulation in Ukraine, among them, K1,000, K100, K50, and K25 notes. In addition to that, trade in counterfeit dollars spreads among the citizens. Altogether, 55 such bank notes were confiscated. From the time of their appearance in circulation, forged coupons worth a total of K23,439,180 were confiscated. This was reported by Stanislav Koldunenko, head of the press center at Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Presidential Edict Creates Joint-Stock Shipping Concern

AU2008084993 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 17 Aug 93 p 6

["Presidential Edict No. 303/93 on the Creation of the Joint-Stock Shipping Concern 'Blasco'-'The Black Sea Steamship Company'" issued in Kiev on 13 August]

[Text] In order to speed up the process of creating and further developing Ukraine's maritime transportation, to satisfy, as far as possible, Ukraine's needs in export-import and cabotage of marine shipments, to overcome the dependence of Ukraine's economy on external monopolist shippers, to increase the efficiency and competitiveness of Ukraine's maritime transportation on the basis of corporatization and joint-stock activities, and to fulfill the national program for creating Ukraine's tanker fleet, I decree as follows:

1. To support the initiative advanced by Ukraine's Ministry of Transport and by the Black Sea Steamship Company and to create, on the basis of structural subdivisions of the Black Sea Steamship Company, the joint-stock shipping concern "Blasco"-"The Black Sea Steamship Company" (hereafter the "Blasco" concern) (in accordance with the supplement).

2. To appoint Kudyukin, Pavlo Viktorovych, as president of the "Blasco" concern.

3. Ukraine's Minister of Transport O. Klympush and President of the "Blasco" Concern Kudyukin must, within one month, adopt the statute of the joint-stock concern "Blasco"-"The Black Sea Fleet Steamship Company."

4. To determine that the "Blasco" concern is a successor to all obligations of the Black Sea Steamship Company both in Ukraine and abroad.

5. To grant the "Blasco" concern the following rights:

To represent its interests in the international organizations INMARSAT (the International Organization of Marine Artificial Satellite Communication), COSPAS-SARSAT (the Space System for Searching for Vessels (and Aircraft) in Trouble-Artificial Satellite Tracking System for Search and Rescue), MARPOL (Marine Pollution—the International Convention on Preventing Pollution From Vessels) and IMO (International Marine Organization), as well as in international organizations dealing with marine medicine;

To issue international-standard medical certificates.

[Signed] L. Kravchuk, President of Ukraine

[Dated] Kiev, 14 August 1993

Belarus

Shushkevich Comments on August 1991 Developments

LD1908135993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1214 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By BELINFORM correspondents Vladimir Glod and Larisa Lazar for TASS]

[Text] Minsk August 19 TASS—"All is well that ends well," Chairman of the Belarusian Parliament Stanislav Shushkevich told BELINFORM, commenting on the developments of August 1991 before leaving for Moscow to have a meeting with President Yeltsin.

He pointed out that the democratic, patriotic forces of Russia had not let the reactionaries, who wished to bring the country back to the totalitarian regime, seize power in the country. They were supported by the forces in Belarus, that favoured democratic transformations. "Otherwise everything could have turned out pretty bad," Shushkevich added.

He urged society to live in peace and stressed that "it is not advisable to further develop hostility on the basis of old approaches."

Shushkevich expressed profound regret that the forces, which united in August 1991 in order to ward off a great threat to democracy, to the destinies of people, lost that unity so quickly.

It is deplorable that society can unite only in the face of enormous threat from the outside, the way it happened during the Nazi aggression, or the threat from the inside, like, for example, during the August coup attempt, he pointed out.

"It is a pity that in the non-extreme situations we forget about that solidarity, although on many occasions it is the rivalry of personalities, not of social forces," Shushkevich said.

Official Says Improvements Made in Gas Situation

LD2008095093 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] I am now passing over the microphone to journalist Ivan Gladki. The subject matter of his report is very topical and concerns everyone, unconditionally.

[Gladki] Good evening, esteemed listeners. This subject really concerns each of us citizens of the republic. Lately it was especially worrying when a sharp reduction of supplies of natural gas from Russia was announced. It was felt by us straight away—supplies of gas and water to apartments have stopped because supplies of gas to boilerhouses have been limited. The shortage of gas is a result of our republic's failure to pay for its supplies; the debt has exceeded 100 billion rubles.

To tell the truth, the situation has now been improving little by little owing to the visit of our government delegation, headed by Stanislaw Bryl, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, to Moscow. The delegation has just come back from there. Let us listen to Stanislaw Bryl on the results of the visit.

[Begin Bryl recording] We made the first payment of 10 billion rubles on Monday, and while still in Moscow we confirmed to Gazprom that the payment would be made. This allowed us to have the limit increased straight away by 5 million cubic meters a day. Today we already receive 17 million cubic meters of gas which is over 55 percent of our daily need. I think that literally this week we will process another two payments of up to 15 billion rubles. The issue of supplies to the Russian Federation of material and technical resources and some agricultural produce that we have, in particular dairy goods, possibly potatoes, for gas works of the north, is at the completion stage. We believe that we will be able to raise another 10-15 billion rubles. In this way we expect to make real payment by the end of this week of approximately 40 billion rubles or maybe even more. The leadership of the Gazprom and the Russian Federation is now in Far East and a radical solution of the issue can be reached only when the leadership of the Gazprom returns to Moscow, which will be on Friday evening. I think that we will continue those negotiations in Moscow on Monday. We should resolve the issue then. [end recording]

[Gladki] Measures are being taken. However, could not the situation in which the republic has found itself have been avoided? Certainly there was such a possibility—it is a timely payment for energy. Unfortunately many people do not stick to such principles; even such giants as the Belarussian metallurgical works, the Belaruskaliy and Mogilev Khimvolokno production associations, and many others. As Stanislaw Bryl noted, the current energy crisis forces us to take a more principled approach to implanting market relations, first of all in paying for energy. With that purpose in mind, control over its use is being strengthened. It is even planned to introduce advanced payment for a number of consumers. The regime of energy saving can become an important reserve. The government is even preparing a special resolution on that account, envisaging a number of measures for encouraging all types of energy, not only for enterprises, establishments, and organizations, but also for the population. In a word, there are reserves to improve the situation and they should be used. The main thing is for everyone to be economical.

Official: Country 'Not Ready' for National Currency

AU2008112393 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 17 Aug 93 p 3

[BELINFORM-UKRINFORM report: "National Currency: Emotions and Reality"]

[Text] "The emotional calls for introducing a national monetary unit in Belarus remain unsupported by serious economic considerations," stated Vladimir Shymov, deputy director of the Scientific Research Institute at the republic's State Committee for Economic Planning. "There is no doubt that the national currency is an indispensable attribute of a truly independent state, however, today our republic is not ready for an immediate introduction of its own money, because this money will inevitably be affected by inflation processes."

Representatives of the republic's State Committee for Economic Planning see the main argument in favor of maintaining the ruble in the absence of a positive external trade balance. As regards Belarus' trade with "distant foreign countries," a balance is still being maintained there. However, it is only because, with the general sharp reduction in the volume of exports, imports decreased to a much greater extent. The situation is much more tragic for the concerns of the republics of the former Union and, first and foremost, Russia. In 1992, imports prevailed over exports by 37.4 billion rubles. Russia alone accounts for 57 percent of all products that are exported from Belarus and for 67 percent of imports. Owing to these factors, the republic's immediate withdrawal from the ruble zone would have been a great mistake, it was believed at the Belarusian State Committee for Economic Planning. Representatives of the Belarusian State Committee for Economic Planning also take into account the fact that the republic does not have gold reserves of its own and that its hard currency reserves are also small. Moreover, Belarus will be unable, in the very near future, to earn sufficient amounts of freely convertible currency to begin putting it aside for ensuring the stability of its money. The thing is that only 3 percent of products manufactured in Belarus may be considered competitive! In this connection, representatives of the State Committee for Economic Planning see the only way out of the crisis in creating an equal and mutually advantageous economic union with CIS countries, and, first and foremost, with Russia.

Poll Results on Joining NATO, EEC, 'Northern Belt' Reported

WS2008064693 Minsk CHYRVONAYA ZMENA in Belarusian 10 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed BELAPAN report: "We Are Peaceful People"]

[Text] The Belarusian people have once again demonstrated their peacefulness and unwillingness to enter any military alliances. The results of an opinion poll conducted by the "Eridan" group show that out of 1,448 people surveyed, 65 percent reject the idea of Belarus joining NATO, 23.1 percent supported such a move, and 12 percent were undecided on the issue.

The question of Belarus joining the EEC is quite different: 75 percent would like Belarus to join, 14.8 percent were against the idea, and 10.2 percent were undecided. Some 55 percent of those surveyed backed the idea of creating a so-called "northern belt"—a military-political and financial-economic union of the G-7 countries, as well as Belarus, Russia, and Poland—while 31 percent did not support this union, and about 13 percent expressed no opinion one way or the other.

Decree Issued on Implementing Law on Health Protection

WS2008064993 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 6 Aug 93 p 3

[Decree No. 2436-XII issued by the Supreme Soviet in Minsk on 18 June: "On Implementation of the Law of the Republic of Belarus 'On Health Protection'"]

[Text] The Belarusian Supreme Soviet decrees the following:

1. To enact the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Health Protection" from the day of its publication.

To enact Part I of Clause 15 as of 1 January 1994.

To enact Clauses 20 and 59 from the moment of the adoption of the corresponding legislative acts of the Republic of Belarus.

2. To consider the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Health Protection" adopted on 4 June 1970 (Belarusian Code of Laws 1970, No. 17, Clause 220; 1973, No. 23, Clause 376; 1974, No. 31, Clause 496, No. 36, Clause 609; 1979, No. 24, Clause 387; 1984, No. 19, Clause 261; 1985, No. 2, Clause 20, No. 32, Clause 449; 1986, No. 28, Clause 364; 1987, No. 16, Clause 200, No. 22, Clause 282, No. 26, Clause 336; 1990, No. 22, Clause 451; Belarusian Supreme Soviet Gazette, 1991, No. 23, Clause 312) no longer in force.

3. To establish that in order to bring Belarusian legislation into conformity with the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Health Protection" the acting legislation of the Republic of Belarus is used inasmuch it does not contradict the given law.

4. To charge the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers:

4.1. To elaborate and submit to the Belarusian Supreme Soviet drafts of legislative acts emerging from the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Health Protection," and proposals on bringing the legislative acts of the Republic of Belarus into conformity with the given law.

4.2. To bring government resolutions into conformity with the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Health Protection" and ensure that ministries, state committees, and departments of the Republic of Belarus revise and repeal normative acts including instructions contradicting the given law by 1 September 1993.

5. To charge the Belarusian Supreme Soviet Commission for Health Protection, Physical Culture, and Social Protection to control the implementation of this decree.

[Signed] S. Shushkevich, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus

[Dated] Minsk, 18 June 1993

Decree Issued on Implementing Law on Ecological Expertise

WS2008064893 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 5 Aug 93 p 4

[Decree No. 2443-XII issued by the Supreme Soviet in Minsk on 18 June: "On Implementation of the Law of the Republic of Belarus 'On State Ecological Expertise'"]

[Text] The Belarusian Supreme Soviet decrees the following:

1. To enact the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On State Ecological Expertise" from the day of its publication.

2. To bring the legislation of the Republic of Belarus into conformity with the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On State Ecological Expertise," the acts of the acting legislation are used in the part which does not contradict the given law.

3. To charge the Belarusian Council of Ministers within three months from the day of publication:

—to submit to the Belarusian Supreme Soviet proposals on bringing the legislation of the Republic of Belarus into conformity with the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On State Ecological Expertise" and to bring the decrees of the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers into conformity with the adopted law;

—to ensure that ministries, state committees, and departments of the Republic of Belarus revise and repeal normative acts contradicting the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On State Ecological Expertise;"

—to develop and adopt procedures of paying for the costs of the state ecological expertise.

[Signed] S. Shushkevich, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus

[Dated] Minsk, 18 June 1993

New York, Rome Consulates Announced; Bulgarian Envoy Named

WS2008064493 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 5 Aug 93 p 1

[Report by Syarhey Snehin: "The Appointment of New General Consuls"]

[Text] The Belarusian Council of Ministers has decided to open new Belarusian general consulates in Rome (Italy) and New York (the United States) and named Syarhey Shylovich and Leanid Karavayka to act as general consuls, respectively.

A subsequent decree nominated Ihar Tsyarnow Belarusian for the post of general consul to Bulgaria.

Moldova

Protest Note Sent to Russia Over Helicopters for Dniester

AU2008081593 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0400 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Nicolae Mircea Nastase report from Chisinau]

[Text] MOLDOVA-PRES news agency has published the protest note sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova to the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Russian Federation, concerning the incident on 7 August 1993, when, as the note says, two helicopters allegedly belonging to the 36th independent squadron of the 14th [Russian] Army, which had taken off from the airport near the town of Lugovoye, Leningrad Region, without previously notifying the air and antiaircraft defense bodies of the Republic of Moldova and violating all international air traffic regulations, changed their scheduled course and landed at the airport in Tiraspol [capital of the self-declared Dniester Republic].

According to available information, the note of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Moldova points out, the aforementioned helicopters have nothing to do with the 36th squadron of the 14th Army, and their flight to Tiraspol actually means that the Russian Federation's Armed Forces are illegally delivering military equipment to the forces of the self-styled Dniester Republic in Moldova.

We consider this case a premeditated action, the note says, which has the purpose of preventing the normalization of the situation in the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova, and therefore we express our strong protest and insist that the competent authorities of the Russian Federation adopt exhaustive measures by ordering the aforementioned helicopters to return to Russia's territory and by seeing to it that such cases do not occur again in the future, the protest note of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Moldova concludes.

Dniester Guardsmen's Chief Arrested on Smuggling Charges

AU1908161193 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1624 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Tiraspol BASAPRESS, 18/8/1993—Reliable sources from Tiraspol informed a BASAPRESS reporter that it is already two days since the chief of the [Dniester] guardsmen's battalion of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, Valeriy Shirkov, had been arrested. In order to prevent public disturbances caused by this arrest, the barracks of the guardsmen were put under the control of the Delta Battalion, which is run by the Tiraspol Ministry of Security. According to the official version, the

head of the battalion is suspected of having received bribes for transporting important goods outside the borders of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic.

NATO Delegation Concludes Visit; 'Response Visit' Planned

AU1908160993 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1624 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 18/8/1993—The NATO delegation finished today its visit to Moldova. The delegation was led by Field Marshal [Richard Frederick] Vincent, chairman of the Military Council of the North-Atlantic Block, an English citizen. The press office of the Moldovan Defense Ministry stated to BASA that the visit aimed to establish the fields of cooperation. The NATO delegation promised to help to create Moldovan armed forces and prepare officers; it will also help to get consultations. A delegation of the Moldovan Ministry of Defense will pay a response visit to talk on cooperation, invited by the North-Atlantic Block. According to a dignitary from the Ministry of Defense, the first NATO delegation visited Moldova in 1991, when General Ion Costas was Minister of Defense. This first visit aimed on getting aware of the social and political situation in Moldova after independence was declared.

Officer Views Financial Situation of Army Personnel

AU1908155593 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1624 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 18/8/1993—The life of the officers in the Moldovan National Army is valued at 400,000 rubles for each man, stated Nicolae Mirosnicenco to the weekly OASTEA POPORUIUI (PEOPLE'S ARMY). Mirosnicenco is chief of the artillery headquarters of the 3d Brigade of Motorized Infantry in Cahul. Officers are considered employed by contract: If an officer dies, his family receives state compensation worth 4 percent his last 10 years' wages, which amounts to 400,000 rubles. The Moldovan Army is completed with officers only by 50 percent now. Moreover, those employed need additional training, as they are often specialized in another fields. According to Mirosnicenco, "the optimal solution to elaborate the tactics and strategy of the National Army is somewhere between the solutions found by the Romanian and the Russian schools. This is why the exchange of experience is priceless, especially while Romanian officers pay long-term visits to units of the National Army."

Company Heads Pessimistic About Prospects of Economy

AU1908155393 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1624 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 18/8/1993—The small improvement in industry in June became more obvious in July, states a communique of the State Department for Statistics. Thus, the volume of industrial production rose this June by 13.5 percent compared to July 1992. This July, the growth reached 32.7 percent. Sources from the Ministry of Industry told BASA that the state of things at Moldova's enterprises could worsen, according to a poll of the State Department of Statistics. Ninety-two percent of those inquired, mostly enterprise heads, said the industry producing machines and construction materials will register a fall in the third quarter of 1993. The hardest problems are financial problems (the opinion of 77 percent of the persons surveyed in the poll) and the lack of raw materials and imported materials (55 percent). Also 42 percent believe there will be shortages of electric energy next three months; 81 percent predict shortages of raw materials. Personnel will be reduced in the third quarter of 1993, as 27 percent of the questioned managers of enterprises believe.

Unemployment Statistics Reported

AU1908124393 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1053 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES, 19/8/1993—There are 5,500 state-owned enterprises in the Republic of Moldova, 1,300 leased enterprises, and 220 mixed enterprises, shows a release of the State Department for Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, published in the statistical bulletin issued in Chisinau. Also, there are over 2,000 cooperative enterprises, 569 kolkhozes, 10,900 companies with limited liability, and 10,600 private enterprises, including 2,400,000 peasant farmsteads.

Vacancies announced by enterprises with labor offices between January-June 1993 counted 1,601, while the number of people looking for jobs stood at 13,000, including 10,000 recognized unemployed.

Statistics show that "there were eight unemployed on the average for each vacant job." Merely 44 percent of all jobless got unemployment benefits, and payments on this account over the first six months of the year amounted to 59.9 million rubles. The same statistics show that 56 percent of all unemployed were blue-collars and office workers. The unemployment rate last June in the Republic of Moldova was 0.5 percent, as compared to 14 percent in Russia and 0.3 percent in Ukraine last May.

The release also shows that a worker's monthly average pay over January-June 1993 went up 6.9 times as against the same period of time last year, and consumer prices rose 8.8 times over the same period. The volume of goods retailed in shops dropped 17 percent.

Government Reports Negative Demographic Development

AU1908124593 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1051 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES, 19/8/1993—A decline in the birth rate and a rise in the overall and infant death

rate are the characteristic phenomena of the demographic evolution of the Republic of Moldova in the first half of 1993 as compared to the similar period of last year, writes the statistical bulletin of the State Department for Statistics of the Republic of Moldova. As many as 32.6 thousand babies were born in the first months of this year, 4 percent less than over the first half of 1992, and 23.4 thousand persons died, which is 2 percent more. The birth rate dropped from 15.6 to 15.1 in one thousand and the death rate rose from 10.5 to 10.8 per thousand, the Chisinau publication adds, showing that the population growth was 9.2 thousand people.

The infant death rate went up, reaching 21.3 babies dead before the age of one year in 1,000 inhabitants, as compared to 18.4 in the same period last year.

The statistics also show that 832 immigrants entered the Republic of Moldova between January and June this year, 611 of whom got permits for permanent residence and 213 residence for a limited period of time.

Gagauz Leader Says Republic Wants To Be Part of CIS

AU1908195893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 18 Aug 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Gagauzia Plans To Join the CIS"]

[Text] This was stated by P. Zavrychko, chairman of the State Administration for Foreign Affairs of the self-proclaimed Gagauz Republic. He said that at a meeting between leader of the Gagauz Republic S. Topal and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation in Moldova B. Plechko, the Gagauz leader openly expressed his desire to see the republic as a subject of the CIS.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev, Russian Oblast Heads Discuss Ties

PM1808151193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Aug 93 p 2

[Valeriy Vedernikov report: "Rupture of Ties Liable To Result In a Catastrophe"]

[Text] Uralsk—A meeting of leaders of adjacent Russian and Kazakh oblasts has been held in Uralsk.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan took part in the conference, and the Russian side was represented by the heads of administration of Orenburg, Samara, and Saratov Oblasts. During the meeting the president of Kazakhstan confirmed that he stands for strengthening the ties between the two states, and is opposed to rigid borders, as this can lead to enormous expenditure and interruptions in economic interaction. Kazakhstan remains in the ruble zone, has deliberately agreed to a certain dependence on the Central Bank of Russia, and is pursuing a policy of restoring previous ties and creating new ones, as well as extensive economic cooperation in the border area.

The participants in the meeting agreed that in a situation whereby enterprises in Russia and Kazakhstan owe each other billions of rubles, a formalistic approach to solving the problem and sharp and abrupt actions would lead to an economic catastrophe and a stoppage in production. It would be foolish to shut the valves in oil and gas pipelines and stop the supply of goods.

V. Yelagin, head of Orenburg Oblast Administration, put forward an initiative to organize a meeting in his city between Russian President B. Yeltsin and President N. Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan so that problems of cooperation in the region could be discussed here on the spot. The Orenburg area should become a bridge between Europe and Asia. The Kazakhstani side has already supported the idea of such a meeting. The proposal has been sent to the Russian Presidential Administration.

During the talks in Uralsk, the problem of the situation of the Russian-speaking population was broached. The president of Kazakhstan gave assurances that at an official, legislative level, there is no violation of the rights of other nations and there can be no such violation; the extremism of Kazakh nationalists is displayed in the localities, at domestic level.

Nazarbayev, German Defense Minister Discuss Ethnic Germans

AU2008094593 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 20 Aug 93 p 2

["eli" report: "Ruehe Agrees on Military Contacts With Kazakhstan"]

[Excerpt] Almaty—In a talk with Defense Minister Volker Ruehe (Christian Democratic Union) Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev expressed concern about the emigration of his country's ethnic German population. Nazarbayev said that the work of the ethnic Germans makes an essential contribution to Kazakhstan. According to Ruehe, the Kazakh president is therefore interested in the German Government's doing everything to make the people stay.

There are still about 600,000 ethnic Germans in Kazakhstan—more than in any other successor state of the Soviet Union. However, the German Embassy is registering up to 10,000 visa applications a month; as a result, long lines form in front of the Embassy everyday. According to diplomats, the number of applicants is constantly increasing.

Ruehe promised Kazakhstan help by the Federal Government "so that the Germans feel comfortable here." He called on Nazarbayev to quickly abolish bureaucratic obstacles for a permit to establish a Goethe Institute in Almaty.

On Thursday [19 August] Kazakh Defense Minister Sagadat Nurmagambetov and Ruehe signed a joint statement, in which they agree on an exchange of experiences between the two armies. Nurmagambetov asked his German colleague for support in training Kazakh officers. Ninety percent of the commanders of the country's armed forces are Russian officers. Almost all training facilities are located in Russia. Ruehe is now examining the possibility of having Kazakh officers trained in Germany. However, he has already rejected the idea of having Kazakh pilots undergo training in Germany. He also rejected Kazakhstan's request for weapons from the stocks of the former National People's Army. While 660 trucks are to be delivered to Central Asia, these vehicles will be for civilian relief organizations. [passage omitted]

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Notes Economic Progress at News Conference

LD1908150493 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1110 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] President Askar Akayev said during a news conference yesterday that there are signs that the republic's economy is finding its way out of crisis. He summarized the results of the first six months and spoke about the prospects for developing the economy of the country.

At present the national income of Kyrgyzstan as against the beginning of the year fell by 22 percent. The industrial productiopn output fell by 23 percent and there is a 24 percent decrease in the consumer goods production as compared to December. All these [words indistinct] compared to other countries of the CIS. He explained the latter one by the disrupted economic ties and the 100 percent need for the importation of oil products. Along with this, however, we have succeeded in certain spheres.

The president announced that by introducing the national currency [the som] we have managed to slow down inflation. If, in the first quarter of the year it was at a level of 40 percent, it now accounts for 17 percent. In December it will be 8-10 percent. Akayev went on to note with satisfaction that the som has become operational. Now one of the most important tasks we face is to maintain the current national currency rate. We are sure of this. We also have $40 million to support the national currency, and we are expecting another $40 million in September. By the year 1995 we will be able to set up our own hard currency gold reserve. [passage indistinct] The structural transformations in industry are rather slow but [word indistinct] and the purpose is for Kyrgyzstan exports to prevail over imports. Within a few days the sugar plant in [word indistinct] will start operating as well as a maize processing plant and a number of other plants and works. These are the first actual steps aimed at invigorating the economy. We are supported by Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan as well as by a number of foreign financial organizations and donor-countries. Already at present we have managed to get $350 million worth of credits. Before the end of the year we are expecting to receive another $100 million from the Asian Bank, and this is a long-term program.

Among the last achievements, I would like to specify the meeting and signing of the agreement on the economic integration with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. I believe that this autumn's main purpose is to set up a workable economic bank and military union within the CIS countries. That is what I will defend during a meeting of the Commonwealth heads of state on 7 September, announced Askar Akayev when summarizing the news conference.

Resignations Seen Indicating 'Power Crisis'

PM1908151993 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Aug 93 p 1

[K. Bayalinov report: "Who Is Akayev Left With?"]

[Text] A wave of voluntary resignations has followed the series of dismissals from leadership posts in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. First Vice Premier German Kuznetsov was the first of the powerful of this world to slam the door as he left. Before departing for Russia, he announced to the mass media that he had become "superfluous to requirements." The other day the resignation of the youngest minister in Akayev's cabinet was accepted—that of Chynara Dzhakypova.

The ex-education minister, professor and historian Ch. Dzhakypova, is already known in the republic as a "troublemaker." First of all she opposed presidential edicts stipulating that every region of the small republic should have its own university. In Ch. Dzhakypova's opinion, given the extremely acute shortage of teaching cadres (not to mention professors) these edicts would sound the death knell for higher education, and a diploma would turn into just another security that anyone could acquire for a certain sum of money. Second, Chynara Dzhakypova openly stated that the government was corrupt "from top to bottom."

The headlines of the republic's newspapers are bristling with details of Dzhakypova's departure—the main event of this and last week—and the authors of these articles are scrupulously trying to get to the bottom of the original cause of this event. Some say it has happened because of the minister's quarrelsome nature, while others... However, we had better hear the explanation given by Chynara Dzhakypova herself:

"I am quitting without haggling and without harassing either the authorities or the president with a request to find me another position... I am quitting because many people have convinced me that an era of stupidity and baseness has dawned.

"It may be a good thing that I have gone back to my freedom, I may need to follow this long road back to my homeland and my people by quitting my post... There are a number of people who are not prepared to refuse easy money, nor is the president prepared to tolerate even mild dissent...."

Describing the political situation in the republic, the ex-minister explained:

"What is going on is the triumph of idiocy: We are putting incompetent people and common lumpens into positions of power...."

To this it only remains to add that the vacated ministerial portfolios are currently being distributed among representatives from the agricultural backwoods. The Kyrgyz intelligentsia is following its Russian-speaking colleagues into emigration.

The present exhibitionist departure by representatives of the top-level nomenklatura can mean only one thing—a power crisis is approaching. Local politicians believe it will come to a head at the end of October or the beginning of November.

General Staff of Armed Forces Created

LD2008094093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0856 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[Text] Bishkek August 20 TASS—Kyrgyzstan has created its own General Staff of the Armed Forces. Two days ago, President Askar Akayev announced the move and said that Vice-President Felix Kulov would head the new structure.

Informed sources told ITAR-TASS today that the General Staff would act as a coordinating centre of all the republic's power structures, from the State Defence Committee to state security.

Some analysts believe that the creation of a new power structure was prompted by the aggravation of the political and military situation in neighbouring Tajikistan.

Tajikistan

Russian Border Troop Commander 'Satisfied' With Visit

LD2008141293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1324 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva, Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe August 20 TASS—Colonel-General Andrey Nikolayev, commander of border guard troops of the Russian Federation, has completed his visit to Tajikistan on Friday [20 August].

"I am satisfied with the visit and the attitude of Tajik authorities to the border guard problem," Nikolayev said in an interview with ITAR-TASS.

He pointed out that the situation remains extremely difficult. "Primarily, it depends on the fact that measures taken by the Tajik republic, other Commonwealth countries and the central government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan have not brought about practical results yet. Therefore, Russian border guards and servicemen of the contingent from Kazakhstan and Kyrgystan and Tajik citizens consider that their main task is to avert bloodshed," Nikolayev said. He believes that this is the reason for constraint displayed by Russian border guards after the capture of five CIS servicemen taken hostage on the Tajik-Afghan border on August 10.

According to Nikolayev, the hostages are not in danger. "I have contacted the Afghan leadership via the Tajik foreign minister and a Russian consul in Khyraton," Nikolayev said. Unfortunately, this problem has not been resolved yet from the point of view of direct extradition. Specific technical details referred to by the Afghan side are not clear to me as a border guard troops commander and a Russian citizen. What stands in the way once there is goodwill? Diplomats also see no reasons preventing the border guards from returning home. The most important thing is that they are alive and that their life is not in jeopardy," Nikolayev said.

Touching upon the problem of reinforcing the border, Nikolayev said that the tasks outlined by heads of state would be implemented using new approaches. The protection and defence of the Tajik-Afghan border will be carried out in coalition and all possible measures will be taken to reinforce the border with weapons, military hardware and increase the number of personnel.

Later in the day Nikolayev left for Bishkek.

Russian Troops Fired Upon at Tajik-Afghan Border

LD2008083093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0755 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Aug—This morning a Tajik National Security Committee subunit started combing the area around the sector where the 14th subunit of the Moskovskiy Border Troops is stationed. Late in the evening on 19 August, the rear of the detachment of Russian Border Troops was fired on using grenade launchers from high ground by unidentified people, and an infantry fighting vehicle of the 201st Motor Rifle Division was holed. None of the division's soldiers, who are protecting the Tajik-Afghan border, were injured. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned of this today from the Russian Border Troops press center.

Foreign Minister Writes to Afghan Counterpart on Hostages

LD2008135993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1308 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe, 20 Aug (TASS)—Tajikistan Foreign Minister Rashid Olimov has expressed serious concern in connection with the delay in the release by Kabul of one Kazakhstan and four Russian border guards taken hostage on 10 August on the Tajik-Afghan border. As ITAR-TASS correspondents have discovered today, he sent a letter to Afghanistan Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala. The message, inter alia, draws attention to the fact that, during his recent visit to Dushanbe, the head of the Afghanistan Foreign Ministry assured the Tajikistan authorities that the question of the release of the hostages would be resolved in the shortest possible time. Unfortunately, the letter indicates, this still has not happened, and it remains only to wonder what obstacles block the return of the hostages. In connection with this, the Tajikistan Foreign Ministry expresses the hope that an immediate and positive decision on this question in the spirit of the agreements reached during the Afghanistan foreign minister's visit to Dushanbe will have a positive influence on the further development and strengthening of bilateral friendly relations between the two neighboring states, which are linked by genuine good-neighborly relations.

Joint Communique With Afghanistan Published

LD1908192893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1342 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Dispatch from Dushanbe by correspondent Khodzhayev]

[Excerpts] I will begin my review with a joint Tajik-Afghan communique published today in the republic's newspapers. It is signed by Rashid Olimov, Tajikistani minister for foreign affairs, and Hedayatollah Amin Arsala, Afghan minister for foreign affairs, and it has to be said that it makes you feel quite optimistic. Here are just a few excerpts from it.

Both sides consider that the tension on the Tajik-Afghan border is not in the national interest of either country, and express their readiness to settle all issues by peaceful means.

Here is another quote:

The Tajikistani side will not permit armed activity directed against the Islamic State of Afghanistan from its territory. The Afghan side, insofar as it is capable, will make an effort to prevent possible border violations from its territory.

Here I want to draw your attention to just this expression: Insofar as it is capable. Yes, one of the reasons why the border confrontation is continuing is just that—the Kabul government is not in control of the situation in the country and, in particular, in north Afghanistan. This also applies to the Armed Forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. As a result of this lack of control, the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border remains complex. You can see examples. Armed groups are concentrating on the contiguous bank of the Pyandzh on the Parkhar, Kunsangir, Shurabad, and Kalai-Khum sectors. The relocation of forces from the depths of Afghanistan directly to the border area is continuing. The 27th Afghan Border Brigade, deployed opposite the Kalai-Khumskiy rayon of Tajikistan, has been brought to full combat readiness. Another example: A meeting of field commanders and commanders of armed opposition groups is planned for 20 August—that is, tomorrow—in the Afghan province of Takhar. Joint plans and action in the very near future on the Tajik-Afghan border are to be discussed at the meeting.

According to military information, action against Russian border guards on both the Shurabad and Parkhar sectors is possible in the next few days. [passage omitted]

I must say right at the end that high hopes are being placed both in Tajikistan and in Afghanistan on the upcoming summit between Imamali Rakhmanov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan, and Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, in the next few days. Well, we can only hope, wait, and believe.

Afghan Consul Interviewed on Border Situation

LD1908223793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By Eduard Dzhafarov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Yesterday, in the region of Nizhniy Pyandzh on the Tajik-Afghan border, citizens of Afghanistan who violated the state border were handed over to the opposite side. However, three were handed over instead of the five promised, which caused astonishment on the part of representatives of Afghanistan, who did not receive a specific answer to the question they raised.

Today the people of Afghanistan are celebrating their independence day. We succeeded in meeting with Mohammad Omar Asir, consul of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

[Begin Asir recording, in Pashto with superimposed Russian translation] The war in Afghanistan is not the fault of the Russian people, it is the fault of the system that existed in the USSR, and we are counting on the very best good-neighborly relations between Afghanistan and Russia. As for the five soldiers taken prisoner, official Kabul is doing everything it can to have them freed as soon as possible. Our side in turn, however, would like to clarify the exact number of individuals being held in Tajikistan. As for the handing over of the three citizens of Afghanistan, they are simply petty smugglers, and this is a humane action which was planned by the Tajik side. [end recording]

Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, commander of the Russian border troops, is continuing his working visit. He has flown to the border with the aim of studying the real situation there, the combat readiness of the border guards, and ways of solving the problems which have arisen during the period of their service there at such a difficult time.

On the whole, the situation in Tajikistan is now relatively stable, and is under the control of government troops.

Opposition Forces, Afghan Border Guards Clash

LD2008104993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1015 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe August 20 TASS—Fighting continues on Afghan territory quite close to the 14th post of the Moscow Border Guard Detachment, military sources in Dushanbe told ITAR-TASS today.

Clashes are taking place between groups of Afghan Mojahedin of all political shades, militants of the Tajik Field Commander Mullo Abdurakhim and units of the Fifth Border Brigade of Afghan General Abdul Rashid Dustum.

Military experts said the Afghan Border Guards are blocking access to the border with Tajikistan for Mojahedin and Tajik armed opposition groups.

As concerns the fate of five Commonwealth servicemen taken hostage at the Tajik-Afghan border on August 10,

ITAR-TASS learned today that they are kept in Talukan, the administrative centre of the Afghan Province of Tahor. Negotiations on their return home continue.

Armed groups continue to concentrate on Afghan territory across the border from the Pyandzh, Moscow and Ishkashim Border Detachments. But the situation on the border is fully under control, according to a spokesman for the Russian borderguard troops deployed in Tajikistan.

Opposition Leaders To Confer on Combat Operations

LD2008084393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0719 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Dushanbe August 20 TASS—Judging by all appearances, Tajik opposition leaders have not given up their plans to overthrow the incumbent Tajik Government and seize power by military methods. Leaders of Tajik fighters are meeting today at the opposition headquarters in Talukan, administrative centre of the Afghan province of Takhar, ITAR-TASS learned from reliable sources in Dushanbe. They are going to discuss the plan of a large-scale combat operation. Invitations to the meeting were sent to Afghan field commanders, who support Tajik Islamists.

According to the same sources, large armed groups and military vehicles are being moved towards some sections of the Tajik-Afghan border, where the invasion is supposed to be started. The concentration of Tajik fighters and Afghan mujahideens is especially noticeable in the border provinces of Takhar and Badakhshan of Afghanistan. The Tajik Government and the command of the Russian frontier guard troops in Tajikistan know about those facts and are sure that they will be able to repulse an aggression from the outside, the source said.

Turkmenistan

President Outlines Procedure for Currency Introduction

LD1908140393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1307 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS non-staff correspondent Vyacheslav Aleksandrov]

[Text] Ashgabat August 19 TASS—As of November 1, Turkmenistan will introduce its national currency—the manat, President Saparmurad Niyazov said at a meeting of the People's Council (Khak Maslakhaty) today. The Turkmen president noted that the Russian Central Bank's abrupt decision to withdraw pre-1993 roubles from circulation last month which destroyed the single rouble space, prompted Turkmenistan to speed up the introduction of its own currency.

Saparmurad Niyazov stressed that the decision to introduce the manat was supported by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and a number of states including Russia. It is planned to establish the manat exchange rate of one manat to one U.S. dollar.

The government of Turkmenistan and the Central Bank have worked out the mechanism for the replacement of old roubles by the new manat currency. It envisages measures to protect the domestic market from a possible flow of money from other Commonwealth countries. With that end in view, only money which belongs to Turkmen citizens and placed on bank accounts will be exchanged for the manats. Each Turkmen will be allowed to change a maximum 30,000 roubles in cash but there would be no limits on money exchanged through bank accounts until September 1. After this date money will be received on bank accounts only by transferring wages and salaries or after presenting a declaration on incomes.

In addition, 5,000 and 10,000 rouble banknotes will be taken from circulation from September 1 to November 1. Circulation of Russian banknotes issued in 1993 will be put on the same footing as circulation of any foreign currency from September 1.

The Turkmen president also informed that a month before introducing the manat, prices for commodities in Turkmenistan will be brought closer to world prices, and prices for consumer goods in the new currency will be calculated on the basis of world prices.

The minimum monthly wage will be 195 manats and the minimum monthly pension—150 manats. The level of prices, Saparmurad Niyazov noted, will be such that citizens will be able to put 40 per cent of their wages into saving banks and the rest of their incomes spend on everyday needs.

According to the president, the issue of the national currency will make it possible to strengthen economic independence of Turkmenistan and raise a living standard of its population.

Niyazov, Iranian Official Discuss Caspian Sea Organization

LD1808195793 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT 18 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—Turkmen president, Saparmurad Niyazov, and Iran's deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs, Mahmud Vaezi, in their meeting in Ashgabat today discussed bilateral relations and issues concerning the upcoming foreign ministerial meeting in Tehran of the Caspian Sea Cooperation Organization.

Niyazov extended an invitation for Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit Turkmenistan and described the latter's policy on regional and international issues as being in line with the interests of the states in the region.

He said Turkmenistan will attend the Caspian foreign ministers' meeting in Tehran next month and help draft a convention for the 5-member organization.

Besides Iran and Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation are the other countries bordering the Caspian, the world's largest inland sea.

Vaezi pointed to the tense situation in the region and the current fighting between Azerbaijan and Armenia, and said continuation of clashes was not in the interest of any country.

Regional countries should help extinguish the flames of war by bringing the two sides to the negotiation table and finding peaceful means to put an end to the deadly conflict.

The two also reviewed developments in Tajikistan with Niyazov welcoming Iran's proposal to the Tajik Government and the opposition to seek peaceful solution by forming a national reconciliation government, and calling for Iran's peace efforts in this regard.

Vaezi in a separate meeting with Turkmen minister of foreign affairs, Hakverdi Atayev, expressed satisfaction on the progress made at the last meeting of Tehran-Ashgabat joint economic commission.

Atayev said that he was looking forward to attending the upcoming meeting of Caspian states in Tehran.

Uzbekistan

Wheat Crop Falls Short of Requirements

PM1908153393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Aug 93

[By A. Minin and A. Ivanov from Uzbekistan; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Minin] To date, almost all the grain has been threshed in Uzbekistan and 80 percent of the harvest has already been delivered to storage facilities. The total wheat harvest, though, will not exceed 1 million tonnes, against a requirement of at least 3 million tonnes.

So where will the other 2 million come from? Under an interstate agreement, Uzbekistan will buy 1 million tonnes from Kazakhstan and the remainder from other states. The area sown to wheat had been doubled compared with last year. Purchase prices had been raised and new storage facilities constructed. Under a government decision, every rural family will receive up to 100 kg of grain. Wheat yields in arid areas total up to 20 quintals per hectare, and in higher-altitude areas double that. The weather has been good this year. In the foothills not just wheat will be harvested this year but also corn, to be used as livestock feed. In short, there is more than enough work to do.

'Kalmakyr' Gold Mine Profiled

PM1608112393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 12 Aug 93

[By A. Minin and M. Gozenshteyn; from Uzbekistan; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Minin] Uzbekistan has long been known for its wealth of resources. Yet most people think of it as a cotton producer. The times have shown that cotton is not the main wealth of young Uzbekistan.

Today an Almalyk mine with an utterly oriental name—"Kalmakyr"—mines the most precious metals—gold, silver, and copper. And whereas in the past raw materials were exported to other regions, the Almalyk mining and metallurgical combine has now assumed the main responsibility for processing nonferrous metals. Special workshops are producing gold and silver ingots with "9999" purity.

At the same time the mineral wealth and availability of manpower make it possible to develop mutually advantageous partnerships with old friends in Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and other regions.

Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan, Aliyev Discuss Cease-Fire

NC1908154593 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1454 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Yerevan, 19 Aug (ARMENPRES)—President Levon Ter-Petrosyan held a telephone conversation today with Geydar Aliyev, the acting president of Azerbaijan.

The leaders of the two countries stressed the importance of the dialogue between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan, the need to consolidate these contacts, and the impermissibility of intensification of the military operations, particularly the use of military air force.

It was noted that it is imperative to strengthen the cease-fire agreement reached between Karabakh and Azerbaijan, which will help in establishing a stable peace in the region and settling the conflict through talks.

Cease-Fire Between Karabakh, Azerbaijan Holding

LD1908163193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1356 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ARMENPRES for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan, 19 Aug— The agreement on a five-day truce, signed by Arkadiy Gukasyan, the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic foreign minister, and Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister Rasul Guliyev, is being observed. An ARMENPRES correspondent reported this today from Stepanakert. He also reported that "military actions on the Gadrut and Fizuli fronts have ceased." During the five-day truce, the ARMENPRES correspondent noted, "an agreement on a meeting of high-ranking Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan Republic leaders should be reached."

Foreign Ministry Statement on Azerbaijani Air Raid

NC1908155993 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 19 Aug 93

["Text" of Foreign Ministry statement on Azerbaijan's air raid on Kapan; issued 18 August]

[Text] Three Azerbaijani SU-25 military aircraft penetrated Armenia's airspace and dropped 10 bombs on Kapan's central areas at 0706 on 18 August. Seven peaceful residents were killed and 34 others were wounded. Five of them are in serious condition. The raid caused considerable damage to the city.

The bombing of Armenia's cities and residential areas and the provocative activities on the republic's border have indicated once again the uninterrupted struggle among the leading circles in Azerbaijan that maintain its aggressive policy. Consequently, several political circles maintain their effort to lead Armenia into a wide-scale armed confrontation and try to further deepen the political crisis on Daghlyk [Nagorno] Karabakh.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry wishes to state that the objective behind the policy pursued by Azerbaijan's leaders is to obstruct the talks that are held within the framework of the CSCE Minsk Conference and involve Armenia in the war. We wish to inform those who have remained committed to the process of finding a peaceful solution to the Daghlyk Karabakh problem that the Armenian leaders maintain the view that the Azerbaijani Government is entirely responsible for the results of military operations.

Regarding the escalation of Azerbaijan's combat operations, Armenia will appeal to the UN Security Council to hold an extraordinary meeting to consider that republic's actions.

[Date] 18 August 1993

Foreign Minister Meets Turkish Counterpart on Karabakh

NC1908160393 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1454 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan and Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin met in Moscow today for almost an hour.

The sides expressed their concern over the deepening of the military conflict in the region and tried to find common points regarding a cease-fire in Karabakh.

They also discussed the latest CSCE and UN Security Council initiatives. The sides expressed their positive attitude toward the latest initiative by the CSCE Minsk group.

During the conversation, Mr. Papazyan expressed his apprehension concerning nonobjective assessments published by the Turkish press.

It was decided to continue contacts.

Karabakh Claims Turkey Delivers Arms to Baku

NC1908153293 Yerevan SNARK in English 1502 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Stepanakert, August 19 (SNARK)—The declaration of the Karabakh parliament says that "despite the UN and the CSCE appeal not to be involved into the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict, there are registered facts of weapons delivery to Azerbaijan from third states, in particular, from Turkey. The Karabakh authorities are ready to supply international organizations with the incontrovertible evidence."

Azerbaijan

Defense Ministry Reports on Armenian Attacks

LD1908131093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1240 GMT 19 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Shulman and AZERTAC correspondent Natig Abdullayev]

[Text] Baku August 19 TASS—Armenian troops captured overnight the district centre of Dzhebrail in south-western Azerbaijan bordering Iran, reports AZERTAC, the Azeri news agency, referring to the latest news from the Information Centre of the Republican Defence Ministry.

According to reports from the Azeri headquarters in Fizuli, a district centre in the neighbouring border district of Azerbaijan, the city garrison taking up all-round defence positions, continues to rebuff enemy attacks.

Armenian troops enveloping the district centre on Wednesday seized villages located east and south-east of Fizuli.

The Azeri Defence Ministry also informs that "Armenian armour is now rolling from Fizuli and Dzhebrail in the direction of the village of Goradiz, Fizuli district, bordering Iran".

Military experts believe that "if Armenians overrun that village, communications with two neighbouring Azeri districts of Zangelan and Kubatliy will be interrupted in the near future.

It is also reported that Azeri troops deployed in the Kubatliy district drove the enemy from the Kubatliy village of Basharat on Wednesday. However, Armenian troops mounting an offensive from the occupied Lachinskiy district on Thursday, captured five villages.

They are now advancing to Gyulebird, a large village. At the same time Armenian forces attacked the border of the Kubatliy district along a 15-kilometer stretch.

According to the Azeri Defence Ministry, the district centre of Zangelan and border villages of the same Azeri district were heavily shelled from the Kafanskiy district, Armenia, this morning. There are casualties among civilians.

Claims Capture of Fizuli Averted

LD2008111893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0730 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Live relay of Radio Baku]

[Text] [Correspondent] I will begin with a report from the Azerbaijani defense minister. The National Army has succeeded in stopping an attack by Armenian Armed Forces, thus averting the capture of the town of Fizuli. At the same time, the enemy's armored tank units are trying to move toward the border with Iran in order to cut off three rayons of Azerbaijan from Baku. Up to 40 Armenian Army tanks are out in force in different areas, and Russian servicemen make up their crews. This was noted by the Geydar Aliyev, the head of Azerbaijan's parliament, acting president of the republic, during his meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Aliyev stated that this should not be regarded as Russia's official policy. These soldiers are regarded as mercenaries.

According to the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, the situation around the town of Dzhebrail is critical. Armenian forces have managed to get within one and one-half kilometers of the town. In neighboring Kubatlinskiy Rayon, an attack by the Armenian Army from the territory of Armenia's Gorisskiy Rayon has been beaten off. Six units of armored equipment belonging to the Armenian side have been destroyed in this area. Attempts by Armenian Armed Forces to move into the heart of Kubatlinskiy Rayon have also been unsuccessful.

Civilians are being killed and injured in other border regions that are being shelled. Geydar Aliyev, the head of Azerbaijan's Supreme Soviet, has told the heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Baku about the critical situation in Fizulinskiy and Dzhebrailinskiy Rayons. He has invited them to visit these areas.

Valter Shoniya, the Russian ambassador to Azerbaijan, has said that he regrets that Russian servicemen are participating in the fighting on the Armenian side, but that the Russian Government is not responsible for the activities of these mercenaries.

Yesterday, Azerbaijan and Armenia agreed on a five-day cease-fire.

Aliyev-Ter-Petrosyan Conversation Reported

NC1908192993 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, conferred with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan by telephone today. They discussed matters related to the dispute and military operations in Daghlyk Karabakh and the adjacent rayons. The two leaders agreed to maintain their effort to find a peaceful solution to the dispute. They also agreed to remain in touch in the future.

Aliyev Meets Envoys; Denounces 'Armenian Agression'

NC1908150093 Baku TURAN in English 1207 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 19 (TURAN)—Yesterday evening deputy president [as received] of Azerbaijan has received the leaders of diplomatic missions in Baku. That meeting has taken place in connection with difficult situation in Fizulinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy regions.

In the cause of the meeting Geydar Aliyev pointed, that situation in the south-west of Azerbaijan was getting worse and worse because of steady Armenian aggression. Instead of implementing CS UN [UN Security Council] 853 Resolution, Armenian party intensifies its aggression against Azerbaijan. The number of refugees and occupied territories is growing every day.

"At present Armenian forces are concentrating near Goradiz dis'rict, that is close to Iranian board", said Geydar Aliyev. He also pointed, that Armenian Army expanded its aggression not only in Fizulinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy but in Zangelanskiy, Kubatlinskiy and, having nothing to do with Karabakh, Kazakhskiy and Tauzskiy. Aliyev noted, that Russian mercenaries had operated Armenian tanks in the firings at Dzhebrail and Fizuli.

Azerbaijani leader called world community upon imposing pressure on the aggressor to avoid bloodshed and occupation of the [words indistinct]. Aliyev asked the ambassadors to inform their leaderships on developments in those regions and if it is necessary to visit the zone of battle actions.

Russian Delegation Due in Baku To Discuss Karabakh, CIS

NC1908134693 Baku TURAN in English 1207 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 19 (TURAN)—Delegation of MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] of Russia at the head of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Boris Kolokolov is due to arrive in Baku tomorrow.

The delegation will meet with the chairman of Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan Geydar Aliyev.

The main subject of the talks will probably be the question on defining the consideration of Azerbaijani guidance for CIS. Majority of people think, that Azerbaijan have to clarify itself on this question before forthcoming at the first decade of September Moscow meeting of the leaders of the states of CIS.

Judging to inquests, holding by TURAN agency among famous political groups, large-scale advance of Armenian Armed Forces practically compels Azerbaijan to enter CIS and join the agreement on collective security.

At the same time, leader of Russian mission in the talks on Nagorno-Karabakh Vladimir Kazimirov, who is known for its severe stand to Azerbaijan, stated at Moscow briefing August 17, that "the fact that Azerbaijan is not aimed at stopping the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh is absolutely unfounded". He also pointed, that the matter on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh can be discussed only at Minsk conference. This Kazimirov's remark, in fact, contradicts position of Armenian party, which demands that Azerbaijan should recognize Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, and this would be preliminary term for starting point of the talks.

Kazimirov also stressed, that CSCE Minsk conference was not the monopolist in discussion of this problem and Russia would welcome activities of another states and organizations aimed at settlement of the conflict, if they are not contradicting efforts of Minsk group.

Elchibey Gives News Conference; Opposes Referendum

NC1908183693 Baku AZERTAC in Azeri 1443 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, 19 Aug (AZERTAC)—At a news conference in the village of Keleki in [Nakhichevan's] Ordubadskiy Rayon today, Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey expressed opposition to the 29 August referendum on confidence in him.

According to the information provided by the presidential spokesman, who has been relieved of his post by the present leadership of the republic, Elchibey said that holding the referendum under state of emergency conditions is contrary to the Constitution and laws. Furthermore, in his opinion, "the procedure on timing the referendum has been violated."

According to the Azerbaijan Republic law, a referendum on this issue cannot be held less than two months or more than four months after the relevant decision by the Supreme Soviet. The law says that in exceptional situations other dates can be set. However, that law mentions nothing regarding the question of holding a referendum in a state of emergency.

According to the former spokesman, Elchibey gave a positive assessment of his year in power. As proof, he cited the recognition of Azerbaijan by the world community, the creation of all the attributes of an independent state, and the formation of the naval forces. The president admitted that it was not possible to create a national army capable of waging war. According to Elchibey, the creation of the National Army started only in May this year after Rakhim Gaziyev, who was more involved in politics than his work, was relieved from the post of defense minister.

According to the former spokesman, Elchibey is continuing with his efforts to search for peace. Elchibey has said that he is preparing to send letters to the presidents of Russia, the United States, and Turkey, which earlier had launched an initiative to resolve the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Elchibey also believes that the UN Security Council, which so far has adopted two resolutions on this matter, should take urgent measures to implement these resolutions to prevent further occupation of Azerbaijani territory.

Expresses Support for Aliyev

TA2008063393 Nicosia Bayrak Radio in Turkish 0500 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey, who was stripped of his powers by the assembly, has declared that

he accepts Geydar Aliyev as chairman of the parliament and supports Aliyev's decisions regarding recent incidents.

According to the Azerbaijani-Turkish Agency, in a news conference in Keleki, where he is currently residing, Elchibey declared that he greatly supports Supreme Soviet Chairman Aliyev and is behind all the decisions made by Aliyev on the political developments in the country. Elchibey said: I would like to cooperate with him in the future as well, but I do not know Surat Guseynov and I do not want to have anything to do with him.

* Iranian Actions in Talysh-Mugan Viewed

93P50273A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Aug 93 p 4

[Text] Baku, London—Iran has strengthened its military presence on its borders with Azerbaijan, while the latter faces the threat of fragmentation and destruction. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in the Azerbaijani capital yesterday to present what his entourage described as "limited proposals and ideas to rescue Azerbaijan from civil war and the dangers of dismemberment."

Velayati's visit came hours after Azerbaijani Defense Minister Sefer Ali Ebiyev charged Hezbollah, loyal to Iran, with supporting the separatists in the Talysh border district.

The Talysh district announced its separatist intentions in June, i.e., when Iran was advocating the defeat of the West-supporting President Abulfaz Elchibey, who was subsequently forced to flee the capital.

Ebiyev said before the parliament in Baku that "Talysh-Mugan," which claims to be an independent republic, has received 80 armored cars and weapons for 3,000 fighters from "a neighboring country." It is known that Talysh is located on the Iranian border. Ebiyev added that the Talysh capital, Lenkoran, on the Caspian Sea, is controlled by the Hezbollah and the mafia.

It is expected that Velayati will submit a new formula to stop the Azerbaijani-Armenian fighting, which has reached the Iranian border. A peace conference may be held in Moscow with the support of the Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, according to diplomatic sources.

Minister Reportedly Abolishes Baku Municipal Police

OW1908130093 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 9 Aug 93

[From the "Telefaks" newscast]

[Text] KHABAR-SERVICE reports that according to Elgar Mazanov, acting chief of the Baku municipal police department, the municipal police body has been abolished by the order of Minister of Internal Affairs Vagif Novruzov.

According to Mazanov, the head of the republican police department justifies the step by saying that it is impossible for two police departments, one subordinate to the mayor and the other to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, to exist in the city, as well as by stating that the formation of a municipal police force has been illegal because it has never been endorsed by the National Assembly.

As KHABAR-SERVICE's correspondent was told by sources close to the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], the whole staff of the municipal police, numbering 319 officers and rank and file, will be dispersed among the special-purpose police detachment—the former OMON [Special-Purpose Militia Detachment]—the special-purpose company, and the patrol post service, all of which are under the authority of the MVD.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Nominates Patsatsia as Prime Minister

LD2008102093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0822 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Speech by head of state Eduard Shevardnadze at a parliament session held in Tbilisi—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shevardnadze] I would like to submit the candidacy of Otar Patsatsia to parliament today. I think that the majority of deputies know him. I w"l not talk at length about it, but I would like to say that the prime minister should know, at first, he must be a politician, but he must be a politician in the sphere of economy. These two notions are inseparable. He [Patsatsia] is an experienced person, he is a professional in his trade, a real professional. I have known him for about 25 to 30 years, I cannot remember exactly. I have known him since my youth and I have seen him in different ranks. I have always considered him a professional and an expert in economy. He has always been creative in his attitude toward the economy. Although recently he has had no opportunity or time to work on economic issues, he has still managed to produce some output. He does not work mechanically. He has a unique ability to communicate with people, even with those people who are difficult to get along with and establish relationships. He has an ability not to carry grudges for the good of the common cause, however acute his personal pain may be.

Maybe he is not as well-known in every corner of Georgia as in his native Samegrelo, Imereti Rayons, Abkhazia, and Tbilisi. Those who know him, I am sure, will agree that he has wonderful human character traits for keeping relationships, communicating with people, and he has a knack of solving complex issues, especially economic ones. Those who know him, especially in

Samegrelo and other regions, assess him as a man of his word, if he promises something he will keep his promise, he will not break it. That is of major importance for us.

I would like to submit his nomination and ask parliament, and not only parliament but the whole of Georgia, as it is everybody's concern, for support during the discussion and approval of this candidacy. I am sure that at this stage, Mr. Patsatsia can do a lot of good for Georgia, and our state and his homeland, from where we have decided to transfer him. I must also say that we have offered him another post, not of this rank, a minister's portfolio. We were considering vice premiership and then he asked us not to do it. This time he had some reservation about my proposal, but I told him that we needed his support, help, knowledge, experience, and authority.

He is here now, we have invited him. Sometimes we ask people in parliament to come forward with an idea. He cannot do it today as this conversation took place yesterday afternoon. I am reiterating, as head of state and chairman of parliament, I am submitting his candidacy that has been considered carefully, and I think that Georgia needs this approval. Thank you.

Parliament Confirms Patsatsia

AU2008111693 Paris AFP in English 1108 20 Aug 93

[Text] Tbilisi, Aug 20 (AFP)—Georgia's parliament named Otar Patsatsia on Friday as prime minister, replacing Tengiz Sigua who resigned August 6.

Moving on a proposal by parliamentary speaker Eduard Shevardnadze, 124 deputies voted for Patsatsia, 16 against and seven abstained.

Spokesman Denies Parliament Rejected Ministerial Candidates

LD1908190393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Statement by the press secretary of Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze]

[Text] An article under the title "A Closed Meeting in the Building of the Institute of Marxism-Leninism" [parliamentary building], published in the REZONANSI newspaper, claims that the parliament rejected the candidatures of Kervalishvili for the prime minister's post, Sarishvili for the foreign minister's post, and Giorgadze for the defense minister's post. Consequently, the press secretariat is frequently asked by journalists about the credibility of this information.

I put a similar question to the head of state and was authorized to announce that the information published in the REZONANSI newspaper does not correspond with the truth. At the consultation meeting that took place on 16 August, no candidates for the posts of foreign minister or defense minister were nominated. As for the post of prime minister, the press has already made it public that many candidates were discussed, including the one nominated by the head of state as well as those nominated by parliament factions and political parties. It was pointed out that the meeting was of a consultative nature; there was no intention of making concrete decisions on the issue of nominees for the prime minister's post.

Commission Oversees Implementing Cease-Fire in Abkhazia

LD2008112993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1049 GMT 20 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi August 20 TASS—Russia's participants in the tripartite commission overseeing implementation of the ceasefire agreement on Abkhazia flew from Sochi, Russia to Abkhaz capital Sukhumi to inspect compliance with the schedule and timetable for the withdrawal of troops from the conflict zone. They will travel to areas where Georgia is concentrating military equipment prior to its complete withdrawal, near the residential area of Dranda and Machara.

Also on Friday, seven reinforced temporary control groups will be sent into areas where the warring factions are to be disengaged along the eastern front from Dranda to Achigvara. At the same time, control groups freed from their duties along the Gumista River front will be transferred to the eastern front.

Major-General Sergey Kudinov, chief of staff of the trilateral commission, said the situation in the east remained complicated because of some groups of Zviadists, supporters of ousted Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia in western Georgia, who were blocking the pull-out of troops from Abkhazia.

According to the press centre of the Russian part of the trilateral commission, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov and Deputy Defence Minister Boris Gromov are expected to arrive in Sochi today to take part in a routine meeting of the allied commission overseeing implementation of ceasefire in Abkhazia.

The commission, which will meet in Adler on Saturday, is expected to consider not only military questions, but also aspects of the political settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia.

Woodruff Killer Admits to Crime

LD2008113893 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Now, we would like to present information that will add more details to the killing of Woodruff.

Police Vice Colonel Temur Murgalia, head of the Tbilisi Police Criminal Investigation Department, has told us that three people had been detained.

At 2130 on 8 August, Ansor Sharmaidze fired an automatic weapon at the Niva car driven by Eldar Gogoladze, the security chief to the head of state. Sharmaidze was born in 1972 in the village of Karakheti in Dusheti rayon. [passage omitted]

As the result of this shot, U.S. embassy employee Fred Woodruff, was killed with a single bullet to his head. Sharmaidze admitted to the crime. The motives of the killing and other circumstances are being clarified, although the motives have been practically established. The criminal wanted to rob the people in the car.

The republic's Procurator's Office is carrying out an investigation.

Tbilisi police have also detained Sharmaidze's accomplices. They are: Gela Bedoidze, born in 1970 in the village of Dinareti of Kaspi rayon, and Gennadiy Berbichashvili, born in 1968. All three are unemployed and they were drunk at the time of the attack.

Estonia

Ruutel: USSR Planned Leaders' Deaths During 1991 Coup

LD2008111493 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0600 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Arnold Ruutel [ex-chairman of the Supreme Council] claims that on this date two years ago, during the night, USSR security services planned to destroy all Estonian top leaders.

[Begin recording] [Ruutel] This is not proved with documents but has become known from quite reliable sources and not from Estonian but outside sources. This process was known within Estonia to a certain degree, evidently leaked through certain channels, that personal dossiers on the top leaders had already been prepared by the time of the January events. As is known, a very serious deployment of troops—of naval troops—had been planned at the time for Estonia, as well, as for the day of the putsch. Even locations had already been prepared for the landing of the naval troops, but evidently the action we took, plus inviting Yeltsin to help, largely upset their plans. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Coming back to this mass murder: Who was collating information and personal histories containing the state leaders' addresses?

[Ruutel] I found out this much at the time of the January events when this already was going on: The Estonian KGB had not been trusted with this task, but the USSR naval counterintelligence was dealing with it. Evidently, however, these documents will become public knowledge after a while, to a greater or lesser degree. [end recording]

Further on Nomination of Juri Luik for Defense Minister

WS1908133393 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1059 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Tallinn, August 19—Estonia's ruling coalition late on Wednesday [18 August] decided to nominate Juri Luik, the minister without portfolio responsible for negotiations with Russia, the country's new Defence Minister, Prime Minister Mart Laar's chief advisor, Tiit Pruuli, told ETA on Thursday.

Luik, a member of the ruling Fatherland Party, will also remain head of Estonia's delegation at negotiations with Russia.

The final say remains with President Lennart Meri whom Laar will present the nomination later on Thursday or Friday.

Under coalition agreement, the Defence Minister's portfolio belonged to another coalition member, the Estonian National Independence Party (ERSP). ERSP may receive another portfolio, Pruuli said without specifying.

Former Defence Minister Hain Rebas, a ERSP member, left his resignation with Premier's office on August 3 in an unexpected move that perplexed Laar and arouse indignation in Estonia's society.

An expatriate Rebas then immediately left for Sweden where he has a home and made his decision public over the Swedish radio.

"...I was somewhat surprised that Mr Rebas should have made a point of making his resignation known via Radio Sweden," Laar said. On August 5, he accepted Rebas' resignation and the following day signed an order appointing Juri Luik acting Defence Minister.

Luik who became 27 on August 17 has been minister without portfolio as of December 1992. Previously, he served as head of political department of the Foreign Ministry. He is a graduate of the Tartu University and a journalist by education.

Latvia

Swedish Prime Minister Holds Talks on Economics, Defense

LD1908225893 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Sweden has an interest in Latvia being able to control successfully and defend its borders, emphasized Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt who met today with the Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis and Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs. At a briefing after the talks with Ulmanis, Bildt said that Sweden is also interested in Latvia's economic growth and its entry into the political organizations of Europe. During the general talks held during the visit, the issues of Latvia's foreign policy, the general Baltic situation, and Latvia's borders and internal security were touched on.

Bildt noted that Latvia has already achieved a lot by separating from the Soviet economic system, introducing its own currency, attaining a certain internal economic stability, and commencing privatization. On the issue of Sweden's attitude to the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic countries, Bildt explained the curtailing of the withdrawal of the troops from Lithuania as a conflict over compensation for the losses incurred by the Army. Birkavs, for his part, emphasized that mutual understanding was reached on the main problems; therefore, the next steps in the talks could be more specific.

Kravchanka, Ulmanis Sign Agreements on Border Issues

WS2008094293 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] The working visit of Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka to Latvia has ended with the signing of two agreements on the establishment of border check

points and bilateral cooperation in resolving of disputable border issues. In his speech at the Riga press conference, the Belarusian foreign minister stressed that they had managed to begin a businesslike dialogue which could result in signing of some 20 bilateral agreements of great importance to both sides. In September, during an official visit of Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs to Belarus, both parties are planning to sign a bilateral agreement on state borders and the establishment of a committee for the demarcation of their borders. You can learn more about Kravchanka's visit to Riga at the press conference which will be held today in Minsk.

[Minsk RID in Russian at 1100 GMT on 19 August, in a report by correspondent Anatoliy Shirvel entitled "Are Latvian Ports Open to Belarus?", adds: "The visit of Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka to Latvia is over. During his stay, the Belarusian foreign minister met with Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis, Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs, and representatives of the Belarusian Diaspora.

["RID has learned at the Belarusian Foreign Ministry that the issues of border guarding, the protection of the rights of national minorities, trade and economic relations, direct railway connection, and transportation of cargo from Belarus to third countries through Latvian sea ports were discussed. Five agreements on the discussed issues are likely to be signed later."]

Lithuania

Ministry Denounces Russian Suspension of Troop Withdrawal

LD1908194593 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 1900 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry views Russia's decision to suspend the army withdrawal from Lithuania as a means of political pressure aimed at forcing Lithuania to abandon its claims to damages caused to Lithuania during the Soviet period. The Foreign Ministry stresses that Lithuania's position entirely complies with the will of the Lithuanian people, expressed in the 1992 14 June referendum.

In its statement, circulated today, the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry states that Lithuania has been abiding by all its international commitments to Russia and therefore Russia's one-sided decision is evaluated as means of political pressure. By its statement, the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry calls the attention of the international community to Russia's intention to violate Lithuanian-Russian agreements achieved earlier, including the bilaterally signed schedule for the troop pullout. According to this statement, by halting the army withdrawal Russia ignores the generally accepted principles of international law.

The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry also expressed hope that Russia would remove the remainder of its troops from Lithuania by 31 August. The document says that Lithuania is ready to negotiate with Russia on questions that might be of interest to both parties.

Delegation Protests Russian 'Political Pressure'

LD2008095693 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] The Lithuanian state delegation for negotiations with Russia has voiced its protest against negotiations with Russia while political pressure is exerted on Lithuania.

Negotiations are unacceptable when one party threatens the other, says a statement by the Lithuanian negotiating delegation released today. The document says that Russia must unconditionally withdraw its army from Lithuanian territory while Russia's compensation for damage done to Lithuania and its people since 1940 should be a matter for further negotiations. In addition, Lithuanian negotiators state that under the present conditions the actions of all Lithuanian representatives involved in the negotiations must not be hasty and uncoordinated. Nobody can allow the imposition on Lithuania of unacceptable conditions and thus create tension in Lithuania, says the document. The negotiating delegation states that it is working and is prepared to continue its work for the sake of the Lithuanian state and the rights of its people.

Sajudis Criticizes Government Policy Toward Russia

LD2008094493 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 20 Aug 93

[Text] The suspension of the Russian army withdrawal shows that the LDLP [Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party] flexible foreign policy has reached a dangerous impasse, reads a protest by the Lithuanian Sajudis Seimas.

Having with his initiative provoked Russia's pressure, Algirdas Brazauskas is now hurrying to Moscow to sign a treaty on conditions imposed on Lithuania. Our economic situation is being simultaneously weakened, an impression is being created that Lithuania is unable to manage its economy independently.

Such LDLP policy may deny the most important achievements of our restored state, impose colonial dependence once again on the Eastern neighbor whose imperial designs and collapsing economy do not lend any hope.

The Lithuanian Sajudis Seimas protests against any political, all the more, secret agreements and the president's negotiations with Russia while the foreign army is not withdrawn from Lithuania. This would harm our international prestige, the interests of the state, and the society and democracy.